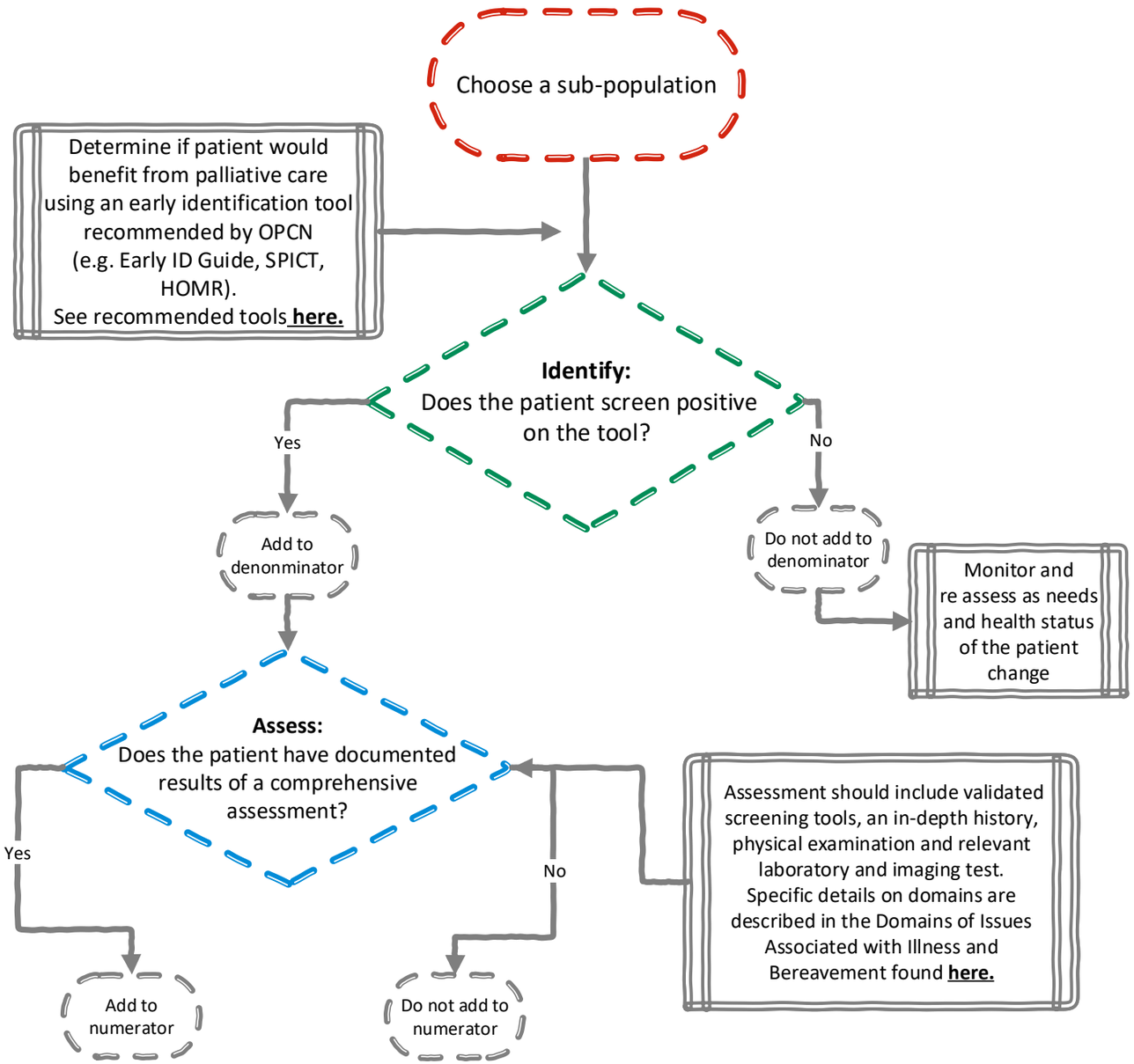

Choose a sub-population:
Pick a sub-population to make your QI project manageable!
The patient populations you choose may include the following:
newly diagnosed, serious and life-limiting conditions; newly diagnosed cancer with significant risk of progression; end-stage organ failure; frailty; dementia; multiple medical conditions; existing condition with a new development

QI Tip: You can narrow down your target population to test your change ideas by geography (one unit), by demographic or clinical criteria (diagnosis, age) or by time (all new admissions) and expand from there

Identify:
Choose a tool, educate staff on use and develop a process to identify patients earlier.
Use this tool on your sub-population.
Develop a process for counting those identified with palliative care needs.

QI Tip: Engage front line staff when choosing your identification tool. Select the tool best suited to the needs of your care setting.
Test tools with a small group first and get feedback before rolling out further.
Use **Plan Do Study Act**.
Consider how the tool interfaces with your documentation systems.

Assess:
Assess the persons needs and preferences across all domains of care. Collaborate with other members of the care team and community providers to leverage their interprofessional expertise and ensure a comprehensive assessment.
Develop a process to complete and document assessments.
Develop a process for 'counting' completed assessments.

QI Tip: Use change management strategies to develop your assessment process.
For example, change of practice among the interprofessional team can be supported by harnessing the six sources of influence (**HERE**), including personal motivation and ability, social influence and structural enablers.

Plan and Manage:
Work collaboratively with your team to plan and manage identified needs.

Contact palliative@hqontario.ca inbox if you need more assistance.