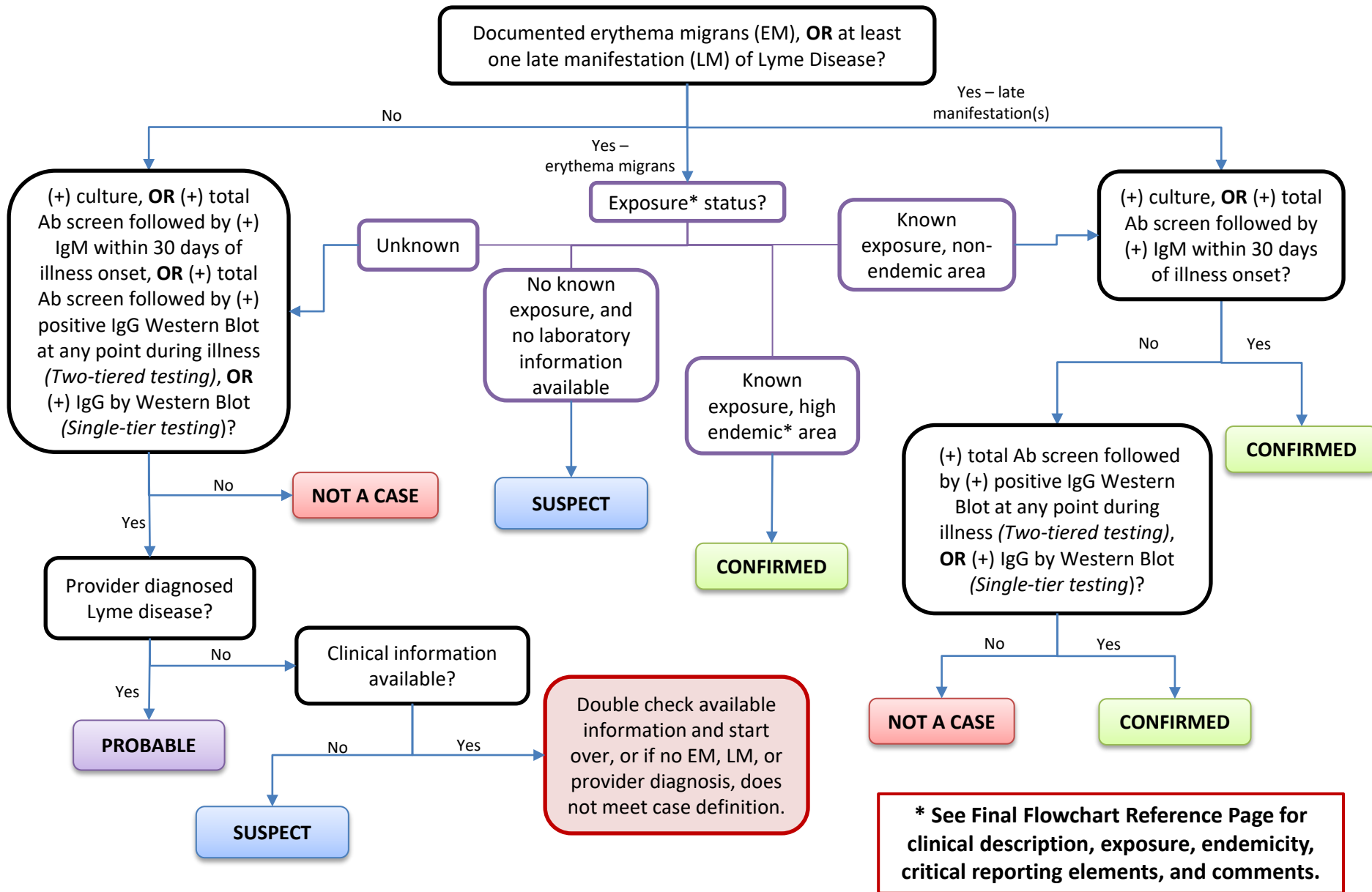


Lyme Disease



*** See Final Flowchart Reference Page for clinical description, exposure, endemicity, critical reporting elements, and comments.**

Lyme Disease

Clinical Description, Exposure, Endemicity, Critical Reporting Elements, and Comments

Clinical Description:

Lyme disease is a systemic, tick-borne disease with protean manifestations, including dermatologic, rheumatologic, neurologic, and/or cardiac abnormalities.

Erythema migrans (EM) is the most common clinical marker for Lyme disease. Also known as the “bull’s-eye rash,” this is the initial skin lesion that occurs in 60%–80% of patients. EM typically begins as a red macule or papule and expands over a period of days to weeks to form a large round lesion, often with partial central clearing. A single primary lesion must reach greater than or equal to 5 cm in size across its largest diameter. Secondary lesions also may occur. Annular erythematous lesions occurring within several hours of a tick bite represent hypersensitivity reactions and do not qualify as EM. For most patients, the expanding EM lesion is accompanied by other acute symptoms, particularly fatigue, fever, headache, mildly stiff neck, arthralgia, or myalgia. These symptoms are typically intermittent.

Late clinical manifestations of the Lyme disease may include the following: severe headaches and neck stiffness, additional EM Rashes to the body, arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling (particularly to the knees and other large joints), facial palsy (loss of muscle tone or droop on one or both sides of the face), intermittent pain in tendons, muscles, joints, and bones, heart palpitations or an irregular heartbeat, episodes of dizziness or short breath, inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, nerve pain, shooting pains, numbness, or tingling in the hands or feet, and problems with short-term memory.

Exposure is defined as having been (≤ 30 days before onset of EM) in wooded, brushy, or grassy areas in a county in which Lyme disease is endemic. History of tick bite is **not** required.

Endemicity is defined as a county in which at least 2 confirmed cases have been acquired or in which established populations of a known tick vector are infected with *B. burgdorferi*.

Critical Reporting Elements and Comments:

- Document the circumstances under which the case patient was exposed including duty exposure, occupational activities, environmental exposures, or other high-risk activities.