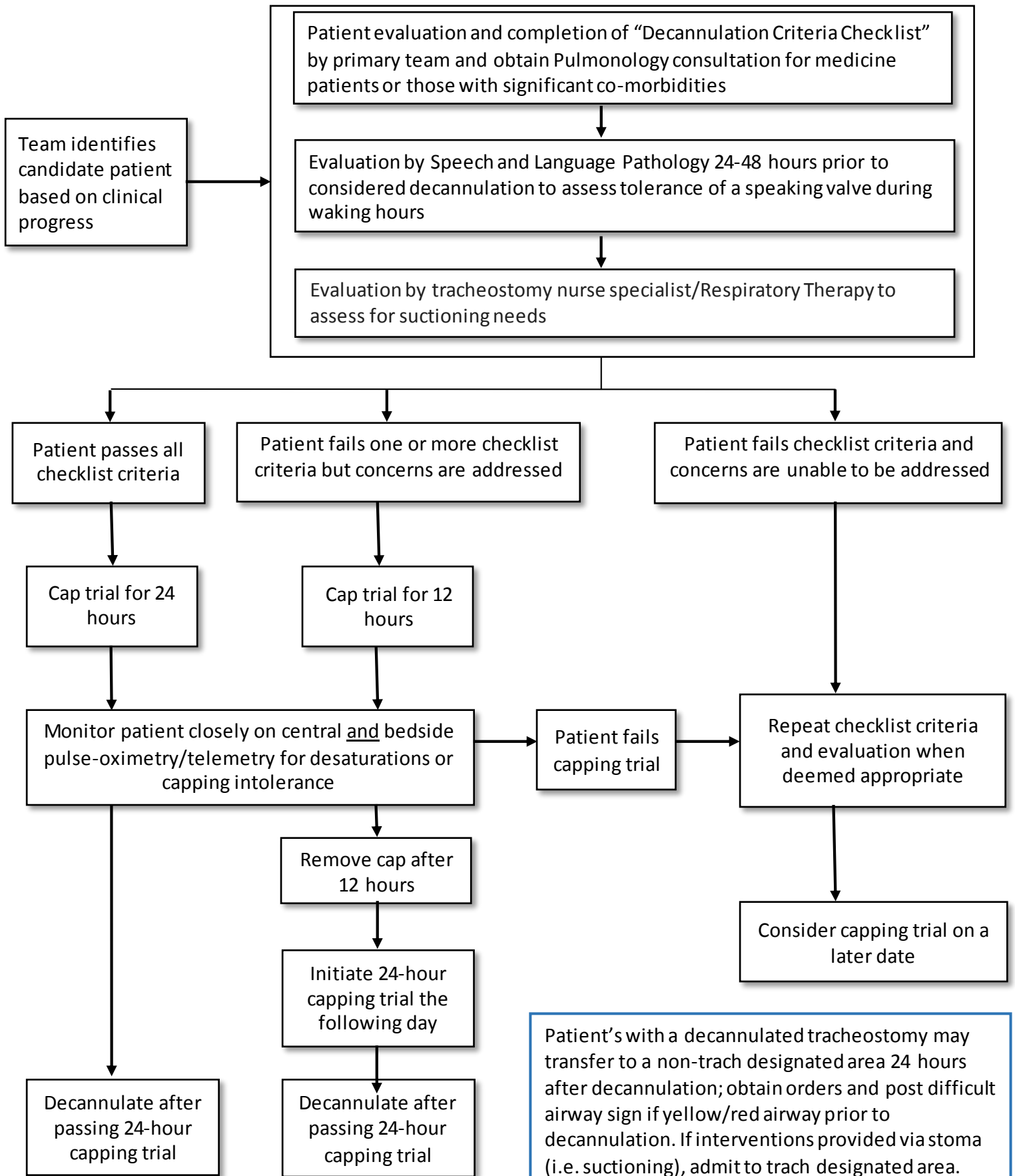


Tracheostomy Capping and Decannulation Algorithm



Decannulation Criteria Checklist

- Have the initial indications for tracheostomy placement resolved or significantly improved?
- Is the patient no longer dependent on a ventilator for assisted breathing?
- Does the patient have an adequate and non-fluctuating level of consciousness?
- Does the patient have an effective cough and not require frequent tracheostomy suctioning (every 4 hours)?
- If there was a previous concern for upper airway obstruction, does flexible laryngoscopy confirm airway patency to the level of the glottis and immediate subglottis?
- Have all foreseeable procedures that would require general anesthesia and/or intubation been completed?
- If patient uses a CPAP device, will they tolerate at least a two-week period off of positive pressure ventilation to allow for stomal healing?