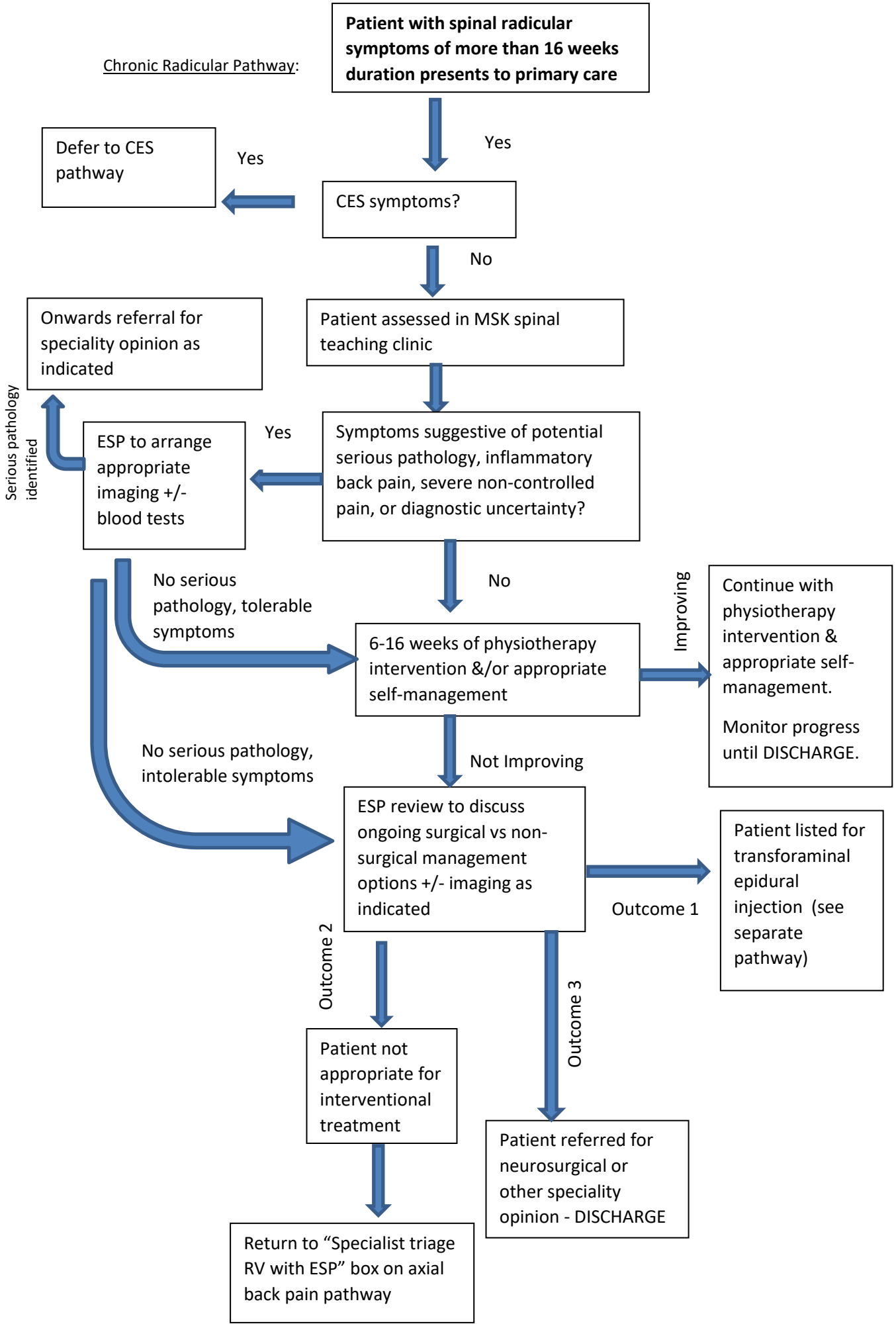
Chronic Radicular Pathway:
Patient with spinal radicular symptoms of more than 16 weeks duration presents to primary care
Yes
CES symptoms?
Yes
Defer to CES pathway
No
Patient assessed in MSK spinal teaching clinic
Symptoms suggestive of potential serious pathology, inflammatory back pain, severe non-controlled pain, or diagnostic uncertainty?
Yes
ESP to arrange appropriate imaging +/- blood tests
Serious pathology identified
Onwards referral for speciality opinion as indicated
No serious pathology, tolerable symptoms
No
6-16 weeks of physiotherapy intervention &/or appropriate self-management
Improving
Continue with physiotherapy intervention & appropriate self-management.
Monitor progress until DISCHARGE.
Not Improving
No serious pathology, intolerable symptoms
ESP review to discuss ongoing surgical vs non-surgical management options +/- imaging as indicated
Outcome 1
Patient listed for transforaminal epidural injection (see separate pathway)
Outcome 2
Patient not appropriate for interventional treatment
Return to "Specialist triage RV with ESP" box on axial back pain pathway
Outcome 3
Patient referred for neurosurgical or other speciality opinion - DISCHARGE