

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING ALGORITHMS

Recommendations from an Expert Group set up by the National Steering Group of Cancer Screening

The recommendation are based on European cervical cancer screening guidelines and experiences from randomised screening trials and retrospective screening studies in Finland¹⁻⁵.

HrHPV testing is recommended as the primary screening method for persons 30 years of age and older. Pap testing is an alternative primary screening method. For persons 25-29 years of age, only pap testing should be used as a primary screening method. Co-testing is not recommended. ⁴⁻⁵

Both Finnish and international research has discovered that the number of findings requiring a follow-up examination increases when changing the screening method from pap testing to HPV testing due to HPV testing being more sensitive; however, the number of findings requiring further attention decreases in the following screening rounds.⁶

Slightly abnormal findings will be followed up for spontaneous remission within 12-24 months with one or two control tests (see the screening of risk groups) before sending a referral for further examinations.

A reminder letter is recommended to be sent to all women who did not participate in the first round, including women in risk group screening.

Further information:

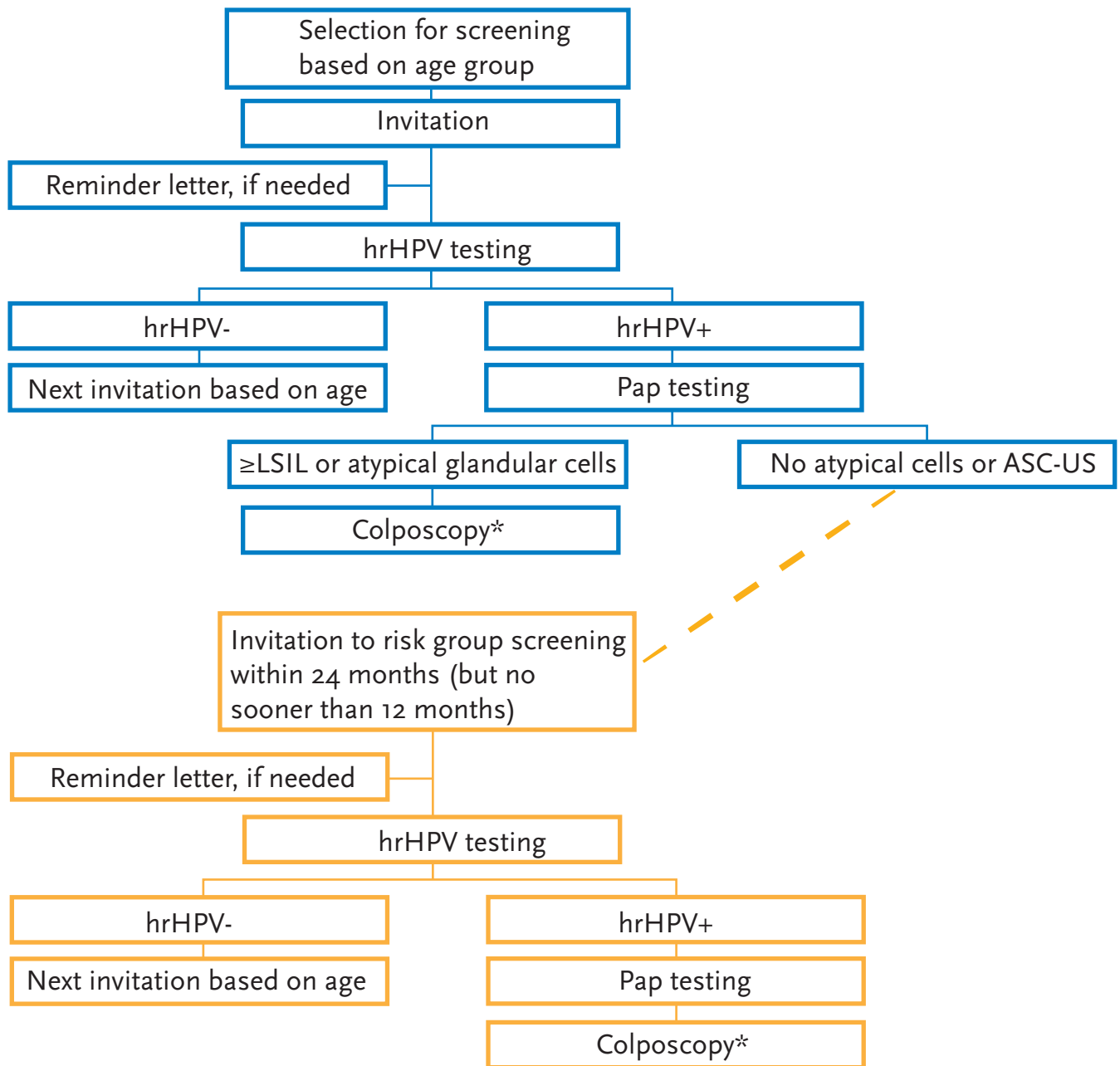
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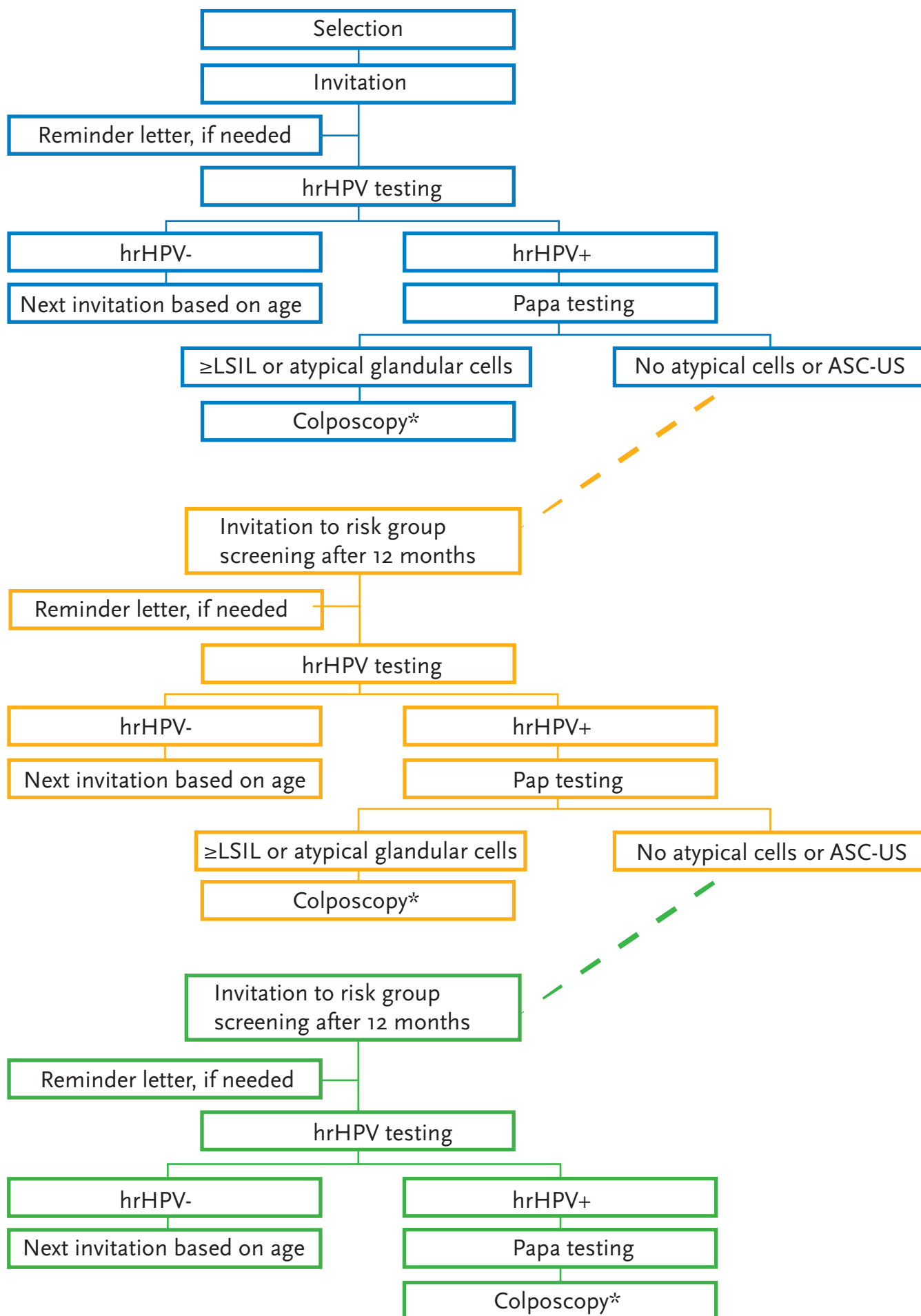
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HrHPV test as the primary test, option I (preferred)



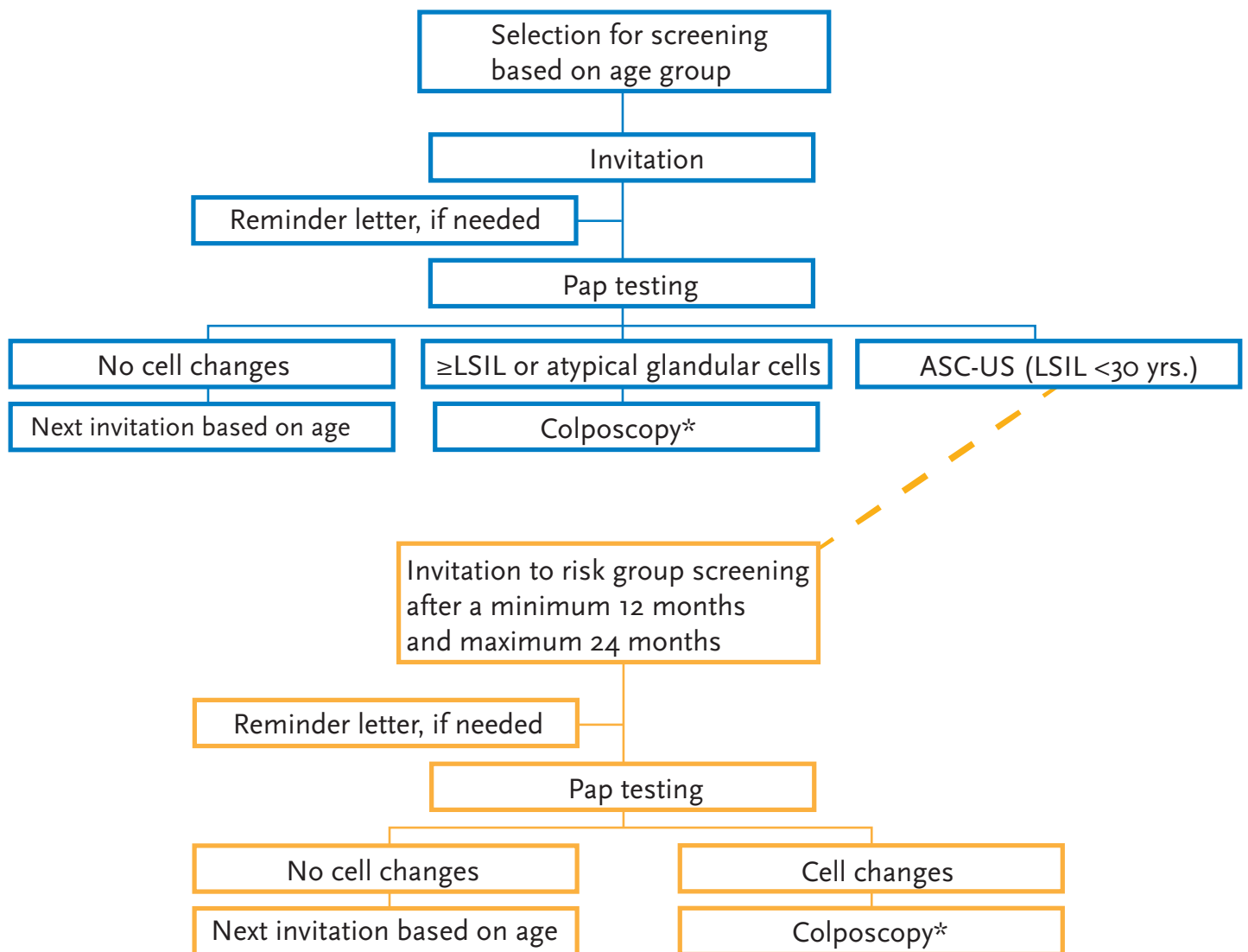
*Urgency defined by the Current Care Guidelines⁷

HrHPV test as the primary test, option II (possible)



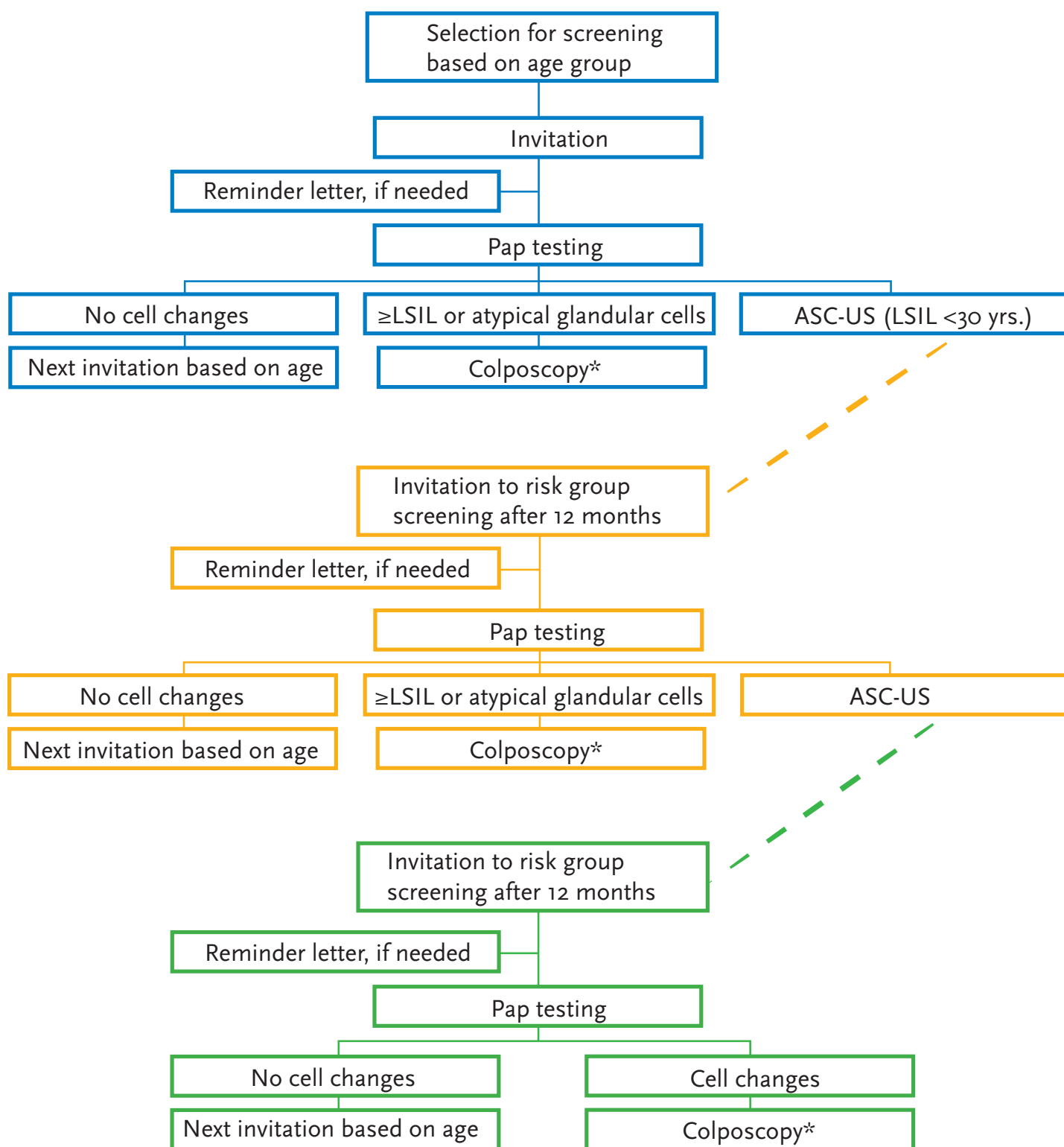
*Urgency defined by the Current Care Guidelines⁷

Pap test as the primary test, option I



*Urgency defined by the Current Care Guidelines⁷

Pap test as the primary test, option II



References:

1. Veijalainen, O., Kares, S., Kujala, P., Tirkkonen, M., Vuento, R., Kholová, I., ... Mäenpää, J. (2016). Human papillomavirus test with cytology triage in organized screening for cervical cancer. *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, 95(11), 1220–1227.
2. Veijalainen, O., Kares, S., Kujala, P., Vuento, R., Osuala, V., Tirkkonen, M., ... Mäenpää, J. (2019). Implementation of HPV-based cervical cancer screening in an organised regional screening programme: 3 years of experience. *Cytopathology : Official Journal of the British Society for Clinical Cytology*, 30(2), 150–156.
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5. Anttila A, Arbyn A, De Vuyst H, Dillner J, Dillner L, Franceschi S, Patnick J, Ronco G, Segnan N, Suonio E, Törnberg S & von Karsa L (eds.). European guidelines for quality assurance in cervical cancer screening. Second edition, Supplements. Office for Official Publications of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2015.
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