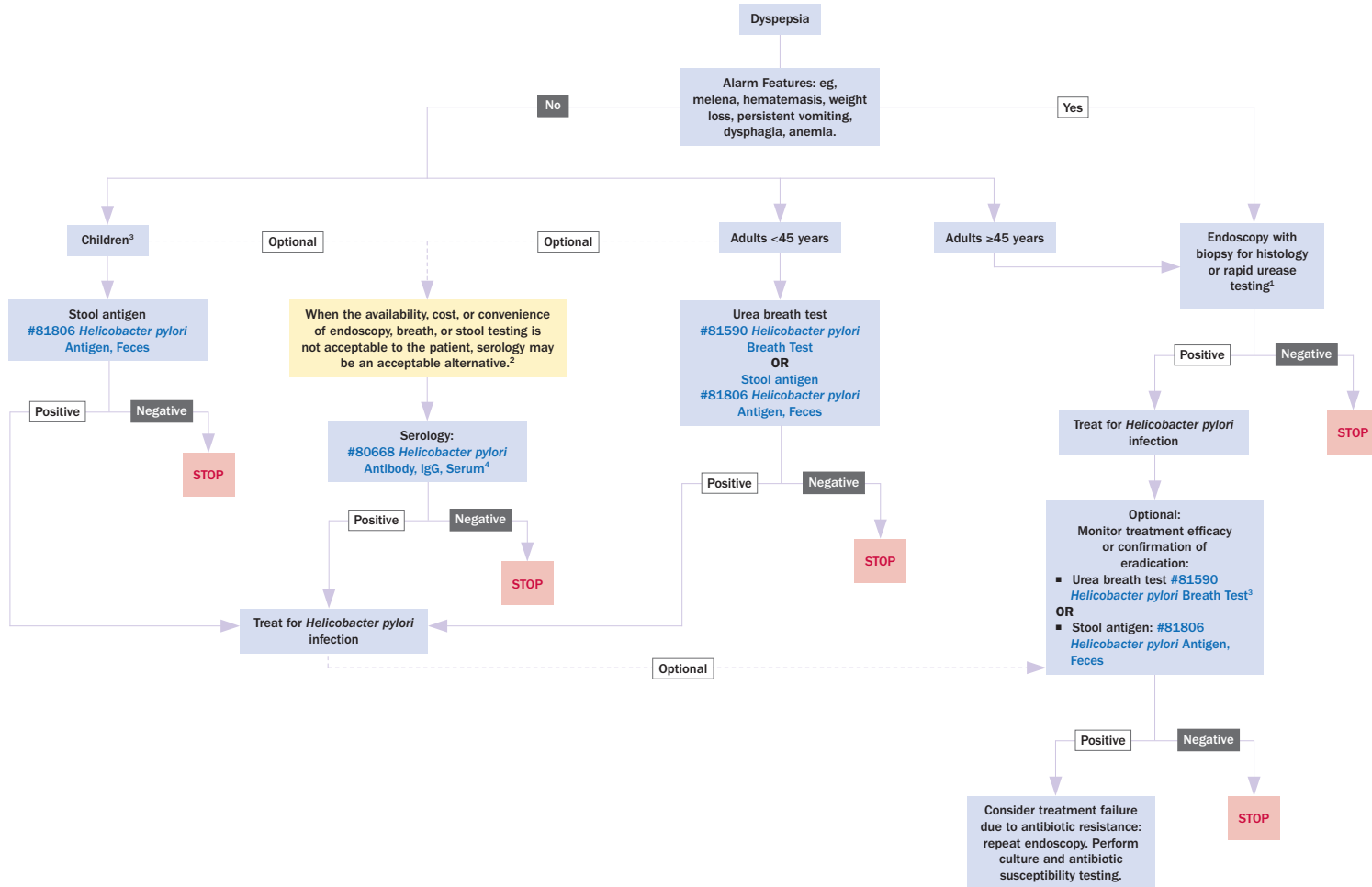


**Helicobacter pylori Diagnostic Algorithm**



**Legend**

- While culture is an option, it is not routinely utilized for initial diagnosis of *H pylori* infection in the Mayo Clinic practice. Culture is required for antibiotic susceptibility testing if physicians suspect antibiotic resistance in patients who have previously failed therapy.
- Histology with special staining for *H pylori* organisms, breath test, stool antigen, and/or culture are the gold standard tests for diagnosis with associated high sensitivity, specificity, and cost.
- The urea breath test is not FDA approved for use in patients under the age of 8. (as of 7/2005)
- Due to a low specificity confirmation of positive serologies (especially IgG) by either stool antigen testing or urea breath testing may be useful.