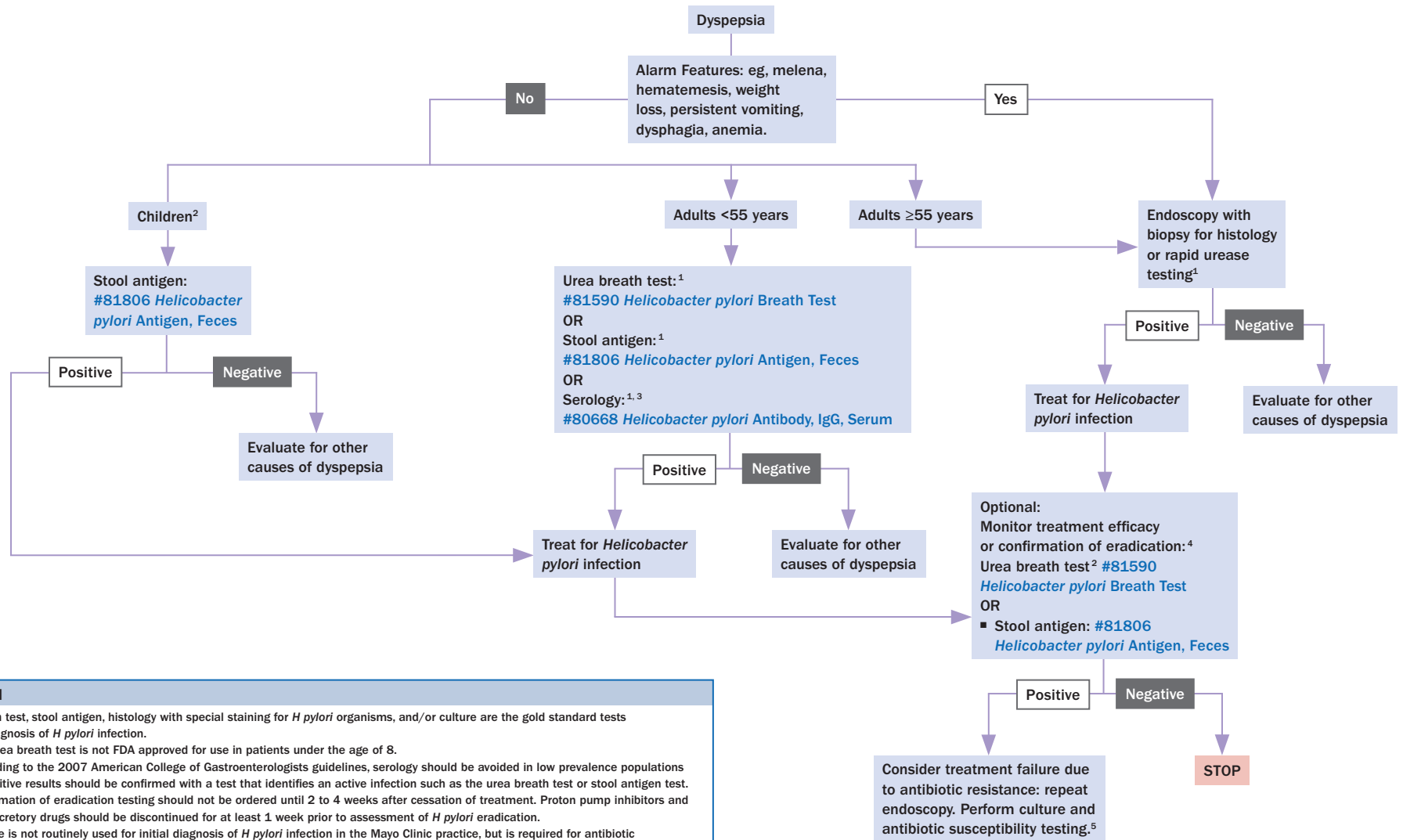


## Helicobacter pylori Diagnostic Algorithm



### Legend

1. Breath test, stool antigen, histology with special staining for *H pylori* organisms, and/or culture are the gold standard tests for diagnosis of *H pylori* infection.
2. The urea breath test is not FDA approved for use in patients under the age of 8.
3. According to the 2007 American College of Gastroenterologists guidelines, serology should be avoided in low prevalence populations or positive results should be confirmed with a test that identifies an active infection such as the urea breath test or stool antigen test.
4. Confirmation of eradication testing should not be ordered until 2 to 4 weeks after cessation of treatment. Proton pump inhibitors and antisecretory drugs should be discontinued for at least 1 week prior to assessment of *H pylori* eradication.
5. Culture is not routinely used for initial diagnosis of *H pylori* infection in the Mayo Clinic practice, but is required for antibiotic susceptibility testing if physicians suspect antibiotic resistance in patients who have previously failed therapy.