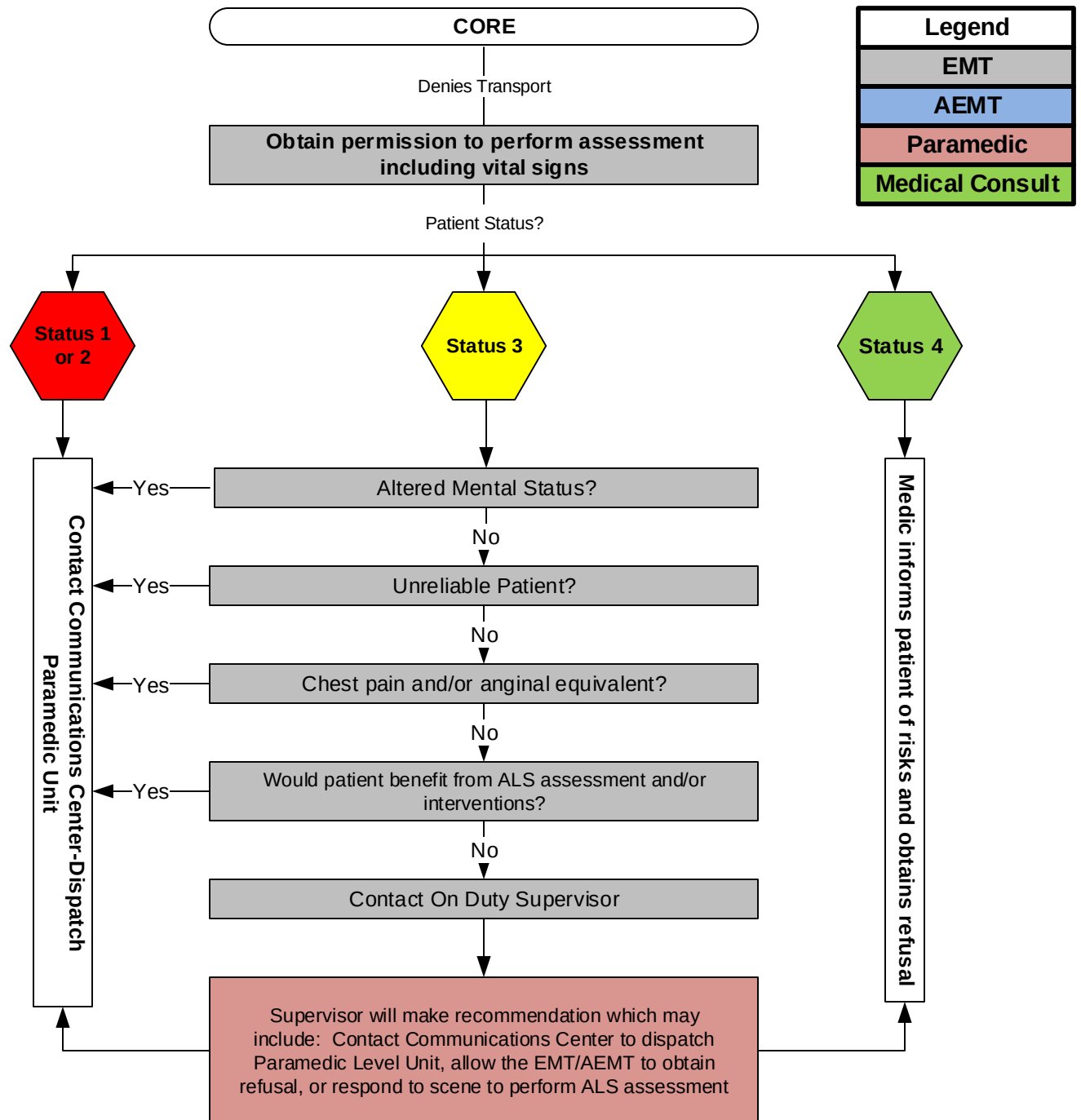


REFUSAL-NON PARAMEDIC CREWS



Pearls:

- Unreliable patients include acute stress reaction, brain injury, intoxication, altered mental status, or communication barrier. These patients cannot accurately report signs and symptoms.
- An altered mental status is an **acute** change in a patient's mental functioning: orientation, alertness, memory, perception, and critical decision-making.
- Any patient with an altered mental status, including appearance of intoxication (slurred speech or staggered gait), should get a CBG and pulse oximetry. Document your assessment and VS in the ePCR. If patient refuses to consent to an assessment, document it.
- Chest pain, or "discomfort", is present in two out of three patients with acute myocardial ischemia/infarction. Atypical presentations (commonly seen in diabetics, females, and geriatric patients) include the following **anginal equivalents**: respiratory distress, syncope, unexplained weakness, diaphoresis, palpitations, epigastric pain, and nausea.