

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Concern for ingested foreign body in esophagus, stomach, or post-pyloric.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Airway foreign body.
- Button battery foreign body.
- Superabsorbent, expanding polymer toys or products (e.g. Orbeez, or similar).

MEASURES

- Time from ED arrival to disposition order.
- Time from ED arrival to OR arrival.
- Hospital length of stay.
- 48-hour return to ED.
- 30-day readmission.
- Number of trips to OR.

CLINICAL GUIDANCE

- [IMG2169] – foreign body series 2-view chest, neck, abdomen x-ray.

DISCHARGE CRITERIA¹

- No vomiting.
- No respiratory distress.
- No abdominal pain.
- No abdominal distension.

Initial Assessment, ED Triage

- Place on continuous pulse oximetry.
- NPO

Known
or suspected
button
battery?

Yes

Off Pathway
See Button
Battery
Pathway

No

Concern for
full or partial
airway obstruction
following choking
episode?

Yes

Off Pathway
See Airway
Foreign Body
Pathway

No

STAT foreign body series x-ray: 2-view neck, chest, abdomen for ingested foreign body [IMG 2169].

Foreign
body visible
in x-ray?

No

Disposition

- Vague history, admit for observation to GI (DV) or General Pediatrics with GI Consult (ORL) per ED Provider's discretion.
- GI to determine need for further imaging.
- History suggests swallowed non-radiopaque foreign body, consult GI for consideration of endoscopy.
- If patient develops respiratory distress, consult ENT.

Yes

Coin or Blunt
Object

Single Magnet

Multiple Magnet
Or
Magnet & Metallic Object

Sharp Object

Food Impaction

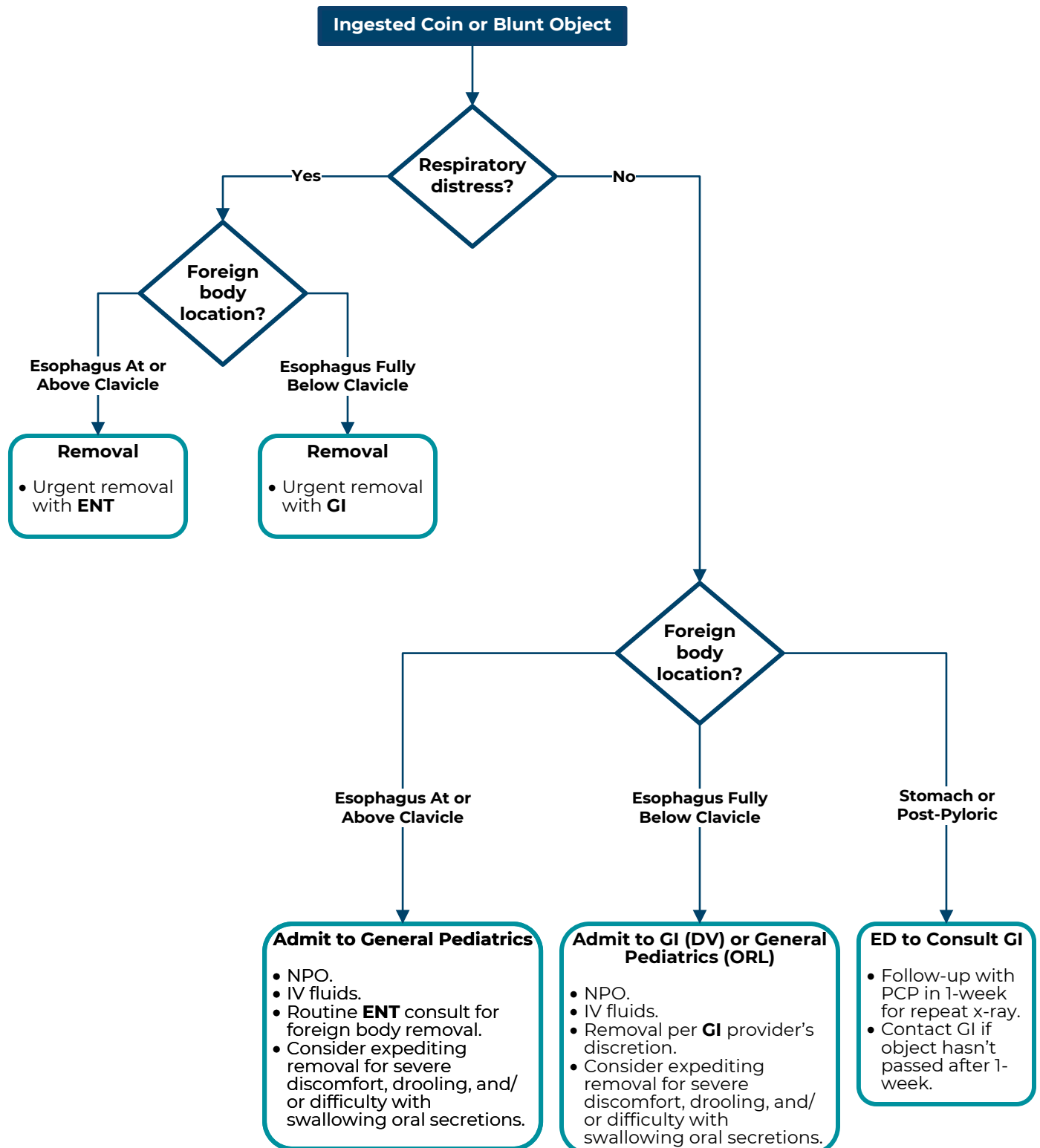
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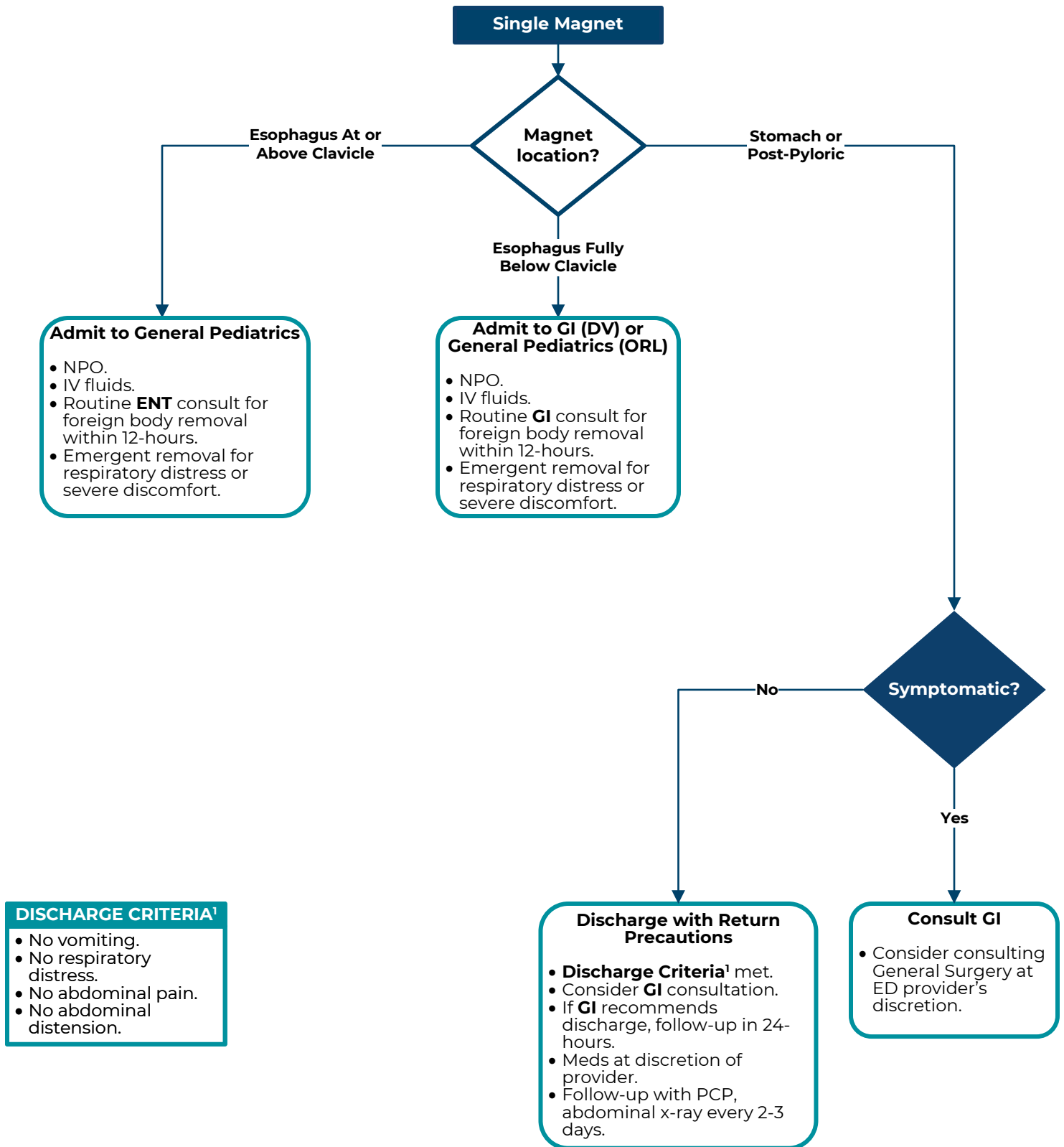
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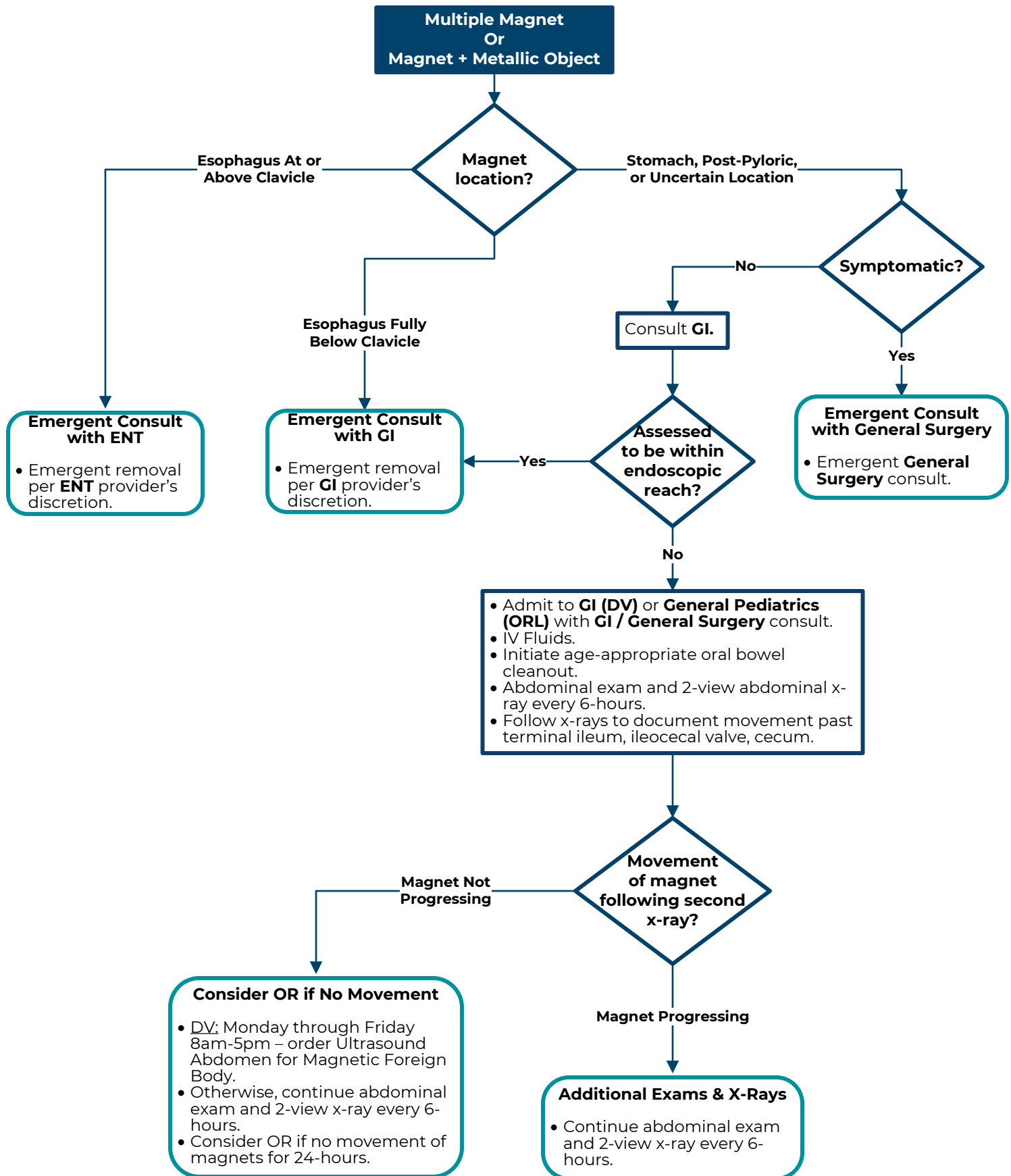
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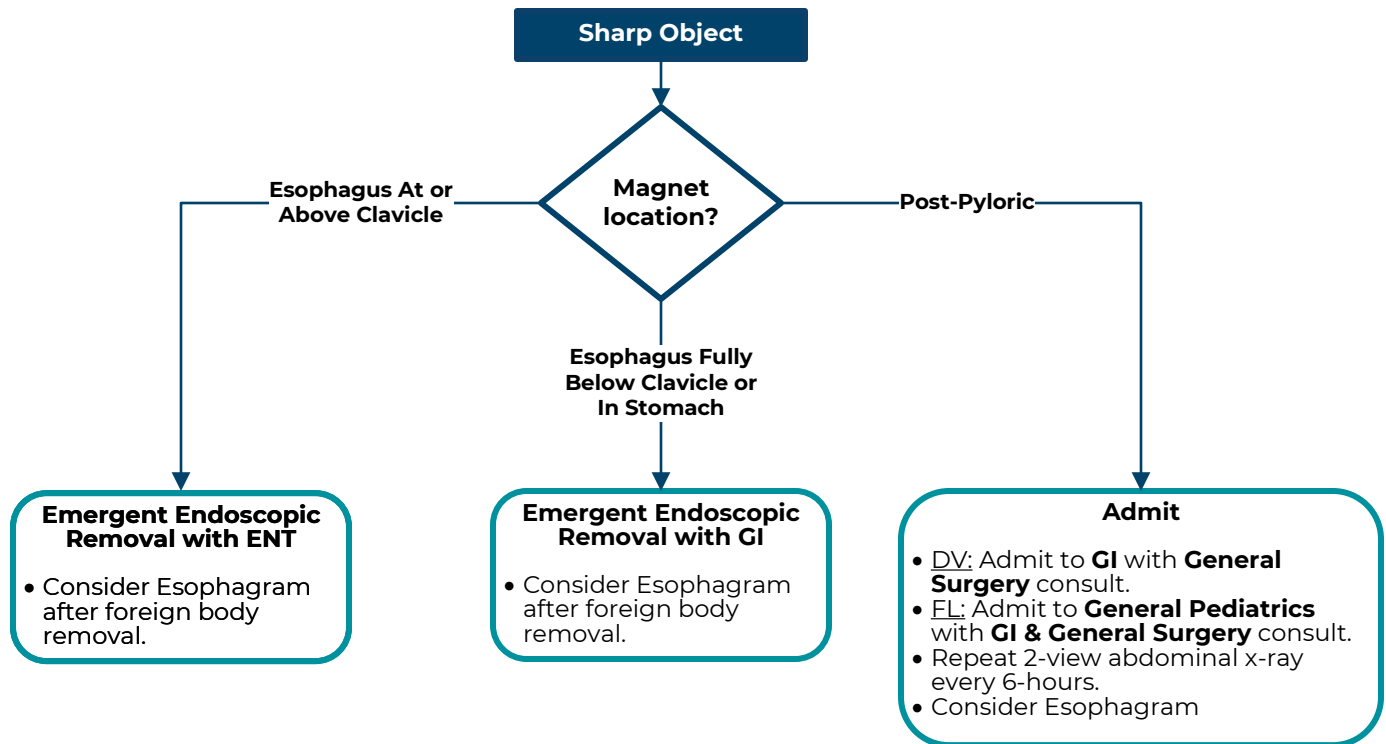
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Food Impaction**Emergent Consult with GI**

- Emergent endoscopic removal per GI provider's discretion.
- Obtain esophageal biopsy during procedure.

Disclaimer: The clinical pathways are based upon publicly available medical evidence and/or a consensus of medical practitioners at Nemours Children's Health ("Nemours") and are current at the time of publication. These clinical pathways are intended to be a guide for practitioners and may need to be adapted for each specific patient based on the practitioner's professional judgment, consideration of any unique circumstances, the needs of each patient and their family, and/or the availability of various resources at the health care institution where the patient is located.

VERSION MANAGEMENT

- Version 1.0 (10/29/25): Go Live.

Questions about this pathway should be directed to clinicalpathways@nemours.org.

AUTHORS & REFERENCES

Central Florida Authors: Cedric Pritchett, Pablo Palomo, Floyd Livingston, Kamal Chavda, Lisa Delozier, Judit Szolnoki, Nick Poulos

Delaware Valley Authors: Nicole Aaronson, Erika Kutsch, Lauren Greenawald, Robert Heinle, Monique Devens, Theresa Moore, Lynda Arai, Kelly Pruden

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