



# Immuno-Oncology Management Best Practices 2.0

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# Objectives

- Review changing landscape of I-O
- Identify best practices in various domains of practice related to I-O
- Introduction of new concept – Palliative Care and I-O

# New England Cancer Specialists

- The only private oncology practice in Maine
- Fourteen physicians; Eleven Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants
- Three physical locations in southern Maine
- Come Home practice; OCM participant; OMH (CoC and NCQA) and QOPI certification
- Driven by quality, value, and innovation
- Dedicated physician to I-O (Best Practice)



# I-O Clinical Education

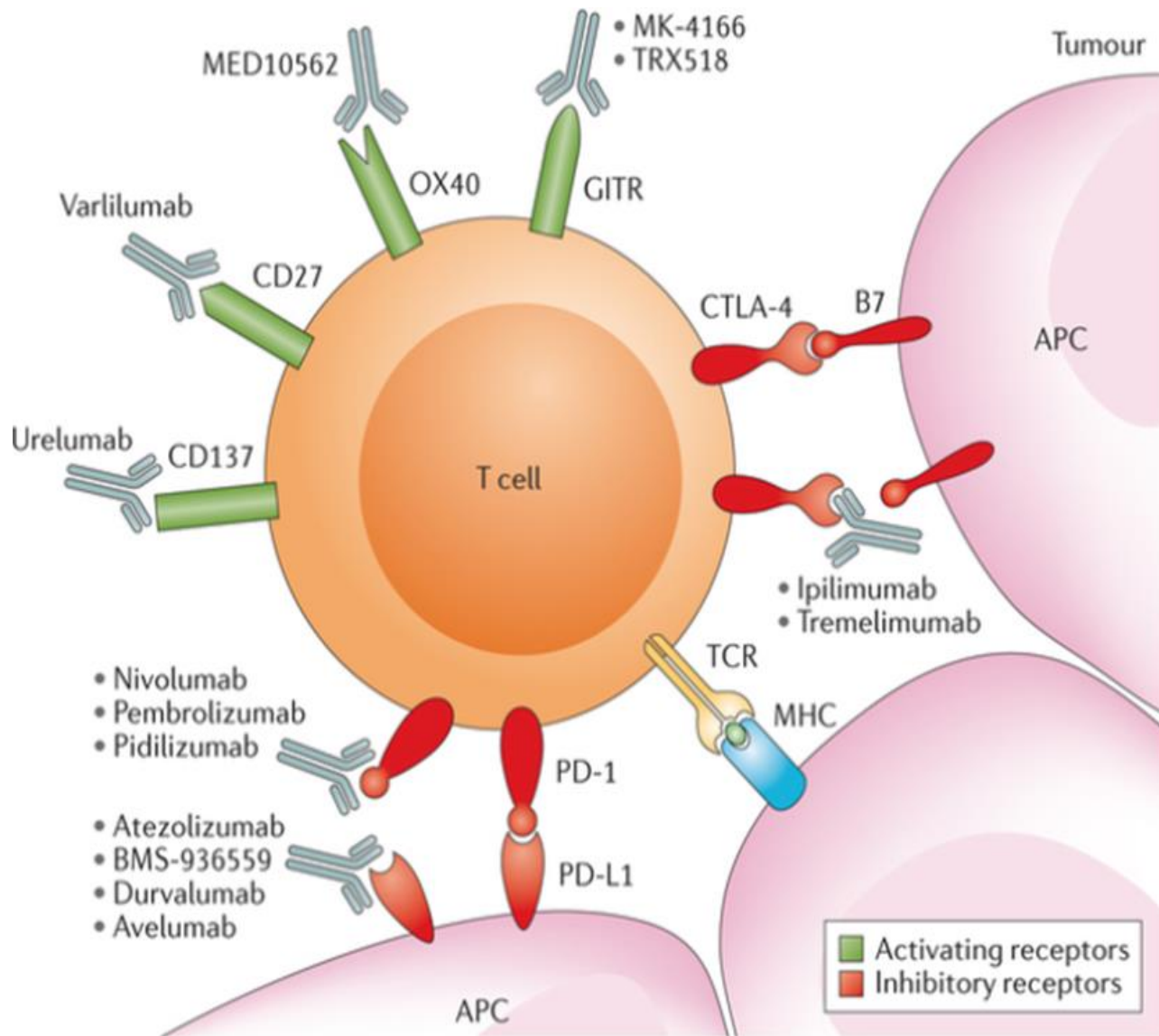
- Growing number of indications and products entering the market
- Dosing changes
  - Staff education, regimen updates, when to change to new dosing from previous dosing
- Regimens – best practices incorporate all necessary baseline and follow-up testing
- Adverse event tracking; development of I-O triage specificity, patient identifiers
- Management algorithms for I-O toxicity
- Emergence of combination therapies

# Immunotherapy for Malignant Disease

- Monoclonal Abs
  - Targeting tumor cells
    - rituximab, alemtuzumab, ofatumumab, obinutuzumab, brentuximab, daratumumab, elotuzumab
  - Targeting angiogenesis
    - bevacizumab, ramucirumab
  - Targeting growth and differentiation
    - cetuximab, panitumumab, necitumumab, trastuzumab, pertuzumab, olartumab, denosumab
  - Antibody-drug conjugates
    - gemtuzumab ozogamicin, ado-trastuzumab emtansine
  - Targeting immune checkpoint inhibitors
    - ipilimumab, nivolumab, pembrolizumab, atezolizumab, avelumab, durvalumab

Immune  
Checkpoint  
Inhibitors –

Where Do They  
Work?



Nature Reviews | Urology

# Checkpoint Inhibitors

- **Melanoma**
- **Lung cancer**
- Classical Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Urothelial cancer
- Head & Neck SCC
- Renal cell cancer
- Merkel cell carcinoma

**FDA approved indications**

- MSI colon and other cancers
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Others...

**Not yet but soon**

- Adrenal cortical carcinoma

**Anecdotal but impressive**



# I-O Pharmacy Considerations

- Addition of I-O agents is driving up on-hand inventory costs
- Refer to Dr. Ali McBride's webinar on Specialty Pharmacy: Managing Immunotherapy Access, Cost, and Patient Expectations
  - <http://accc-icl.io/events/1224-2/>
- Vial optimization or batching – need to adhere to regulatory and state statutes but can save system and practice money
- Regimen optimization

# I-O Financial Issues

- Ever increasing cost of new therapies
- Value-based assessments
  - Various stakeholders; methodologies; vetting of information; utilization
- Length of therapy in I-O and cost implications
  - Two years versus continue until progression
- Financial assessment demands on practices (OCM)
- Bundled payment strategies, little oncology experience or programs
- Financial Advocates (Best Practice) for prior authorization, off-label use, and drug acquisition
- Longevity of patient assistance
- Access

# I-O Payer Landscape

- Depends on geographic market and payers
- No denials in Maine by any payer to date
- Future conversations with payers may evolve as class grows and data emerges
- ? Cost driving selection in the future

# Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE)

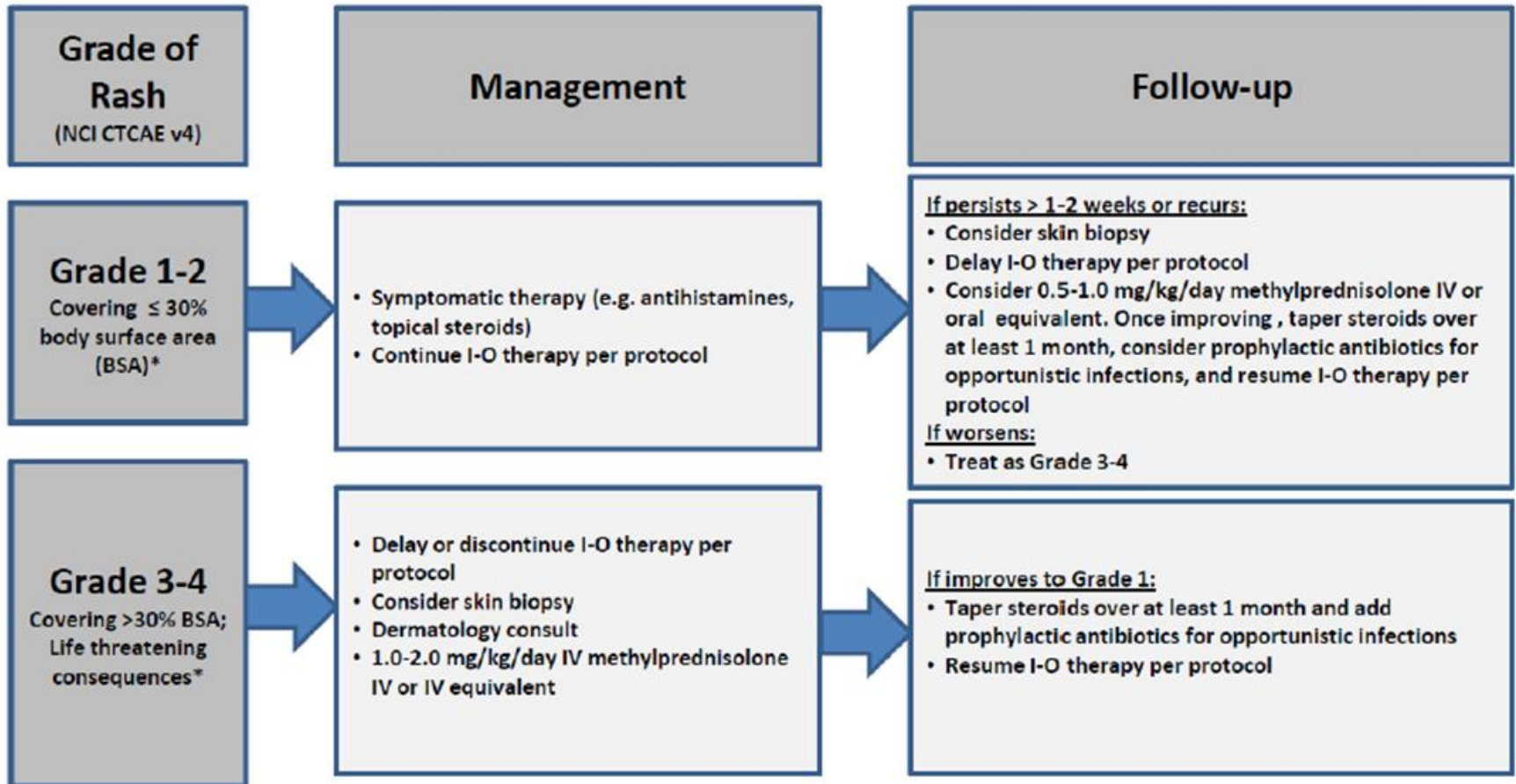
Version 4.0

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes of Health  
National Cancer Institute

# Skin Adverse Event Management Algorithm

Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause, treat accordingly and continue I-O therapy.

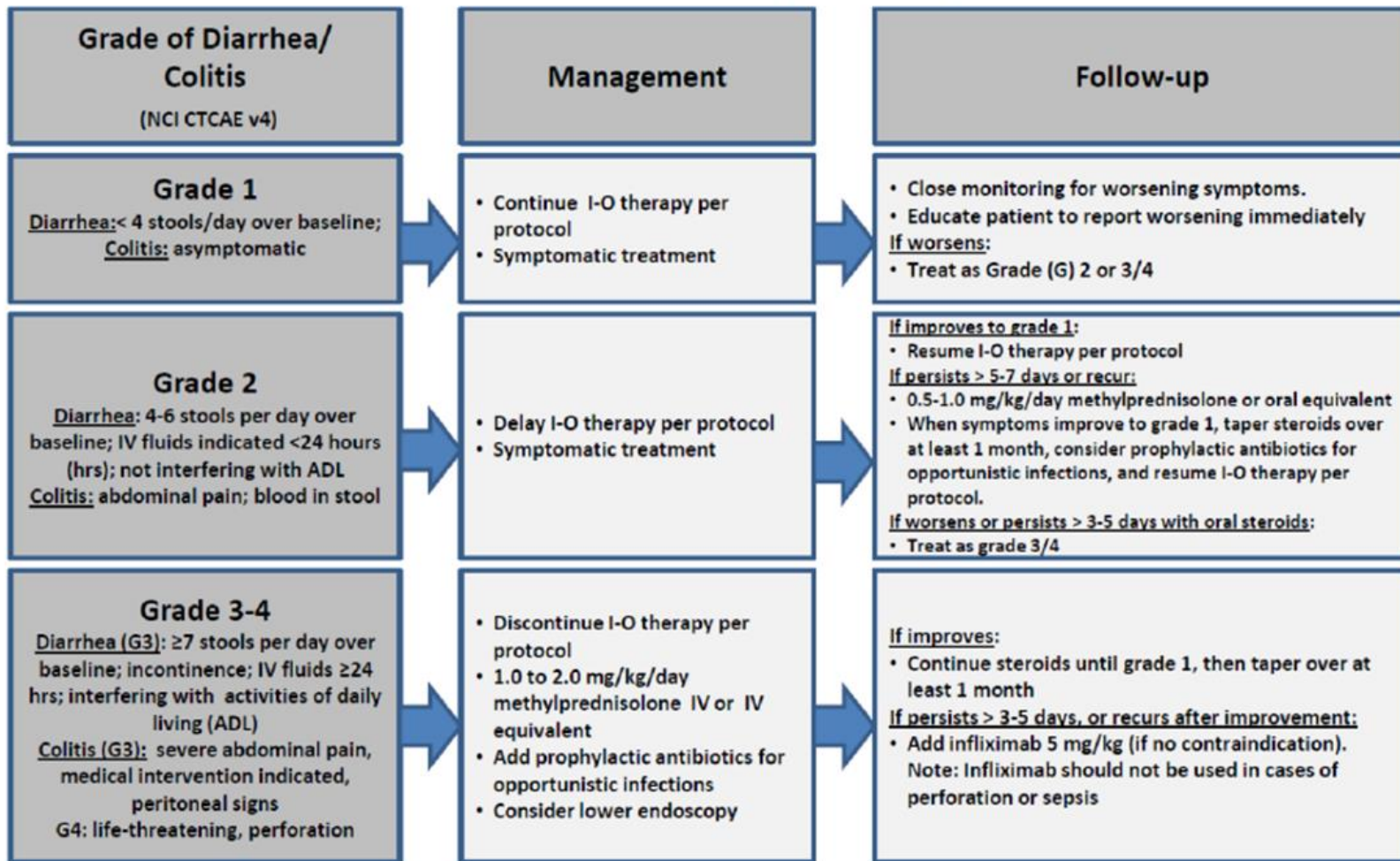


Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.

\*Refer to NCI CTCAE v4 for term-specific grading criteria.

# GI Adverse Event Management Algorithm

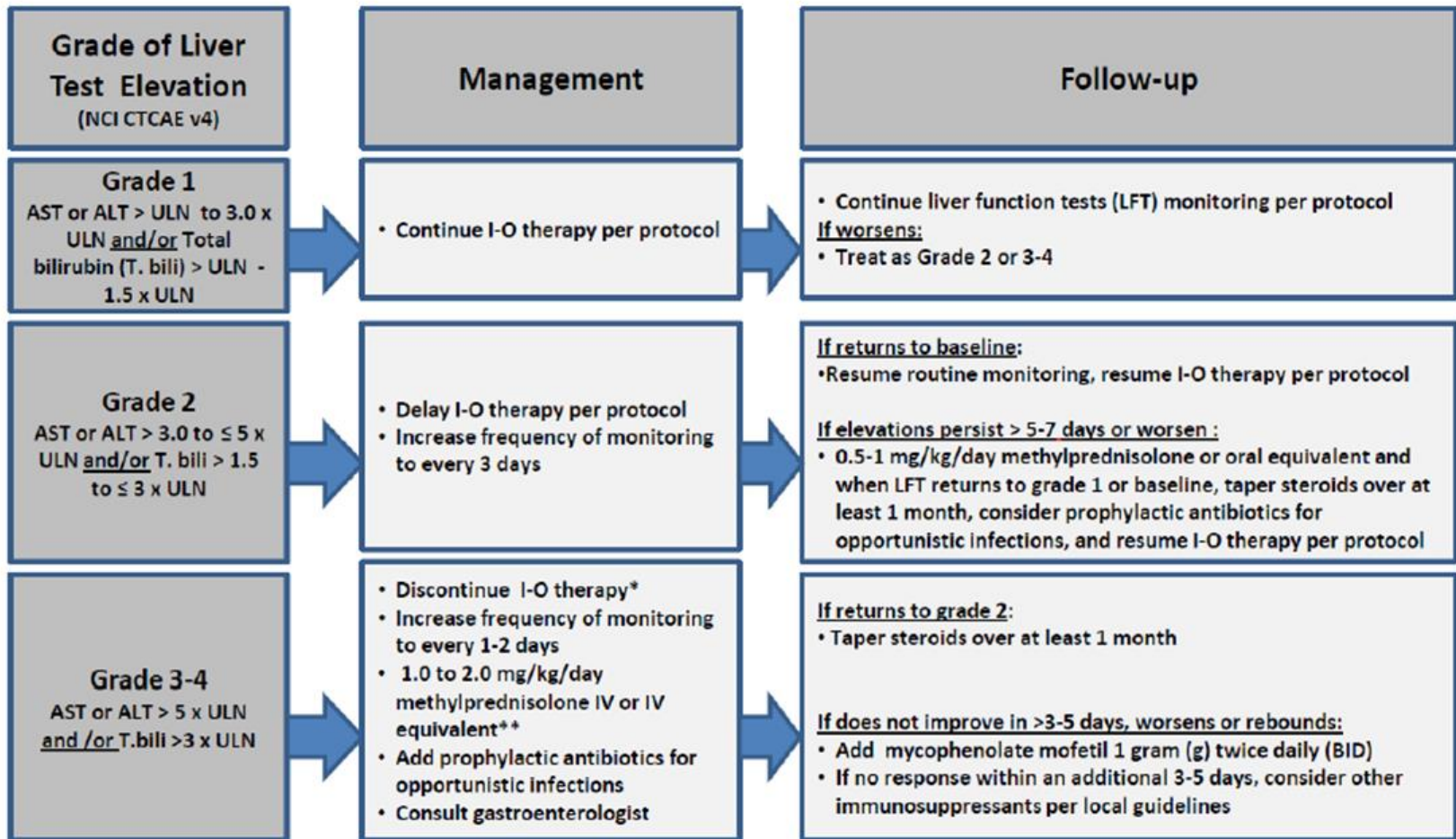
Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause is identified, treat accordingly and continue I-O therapy. Opiates/narcotics may mask symptoms of perforation. Infliximab should not be used in cases of perforation or sepsis.



Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.

# Hepatic Adverse Event Management Algorithm

Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause, treat accordingly and continue I-O therapy. Consider imaging for obstruction.



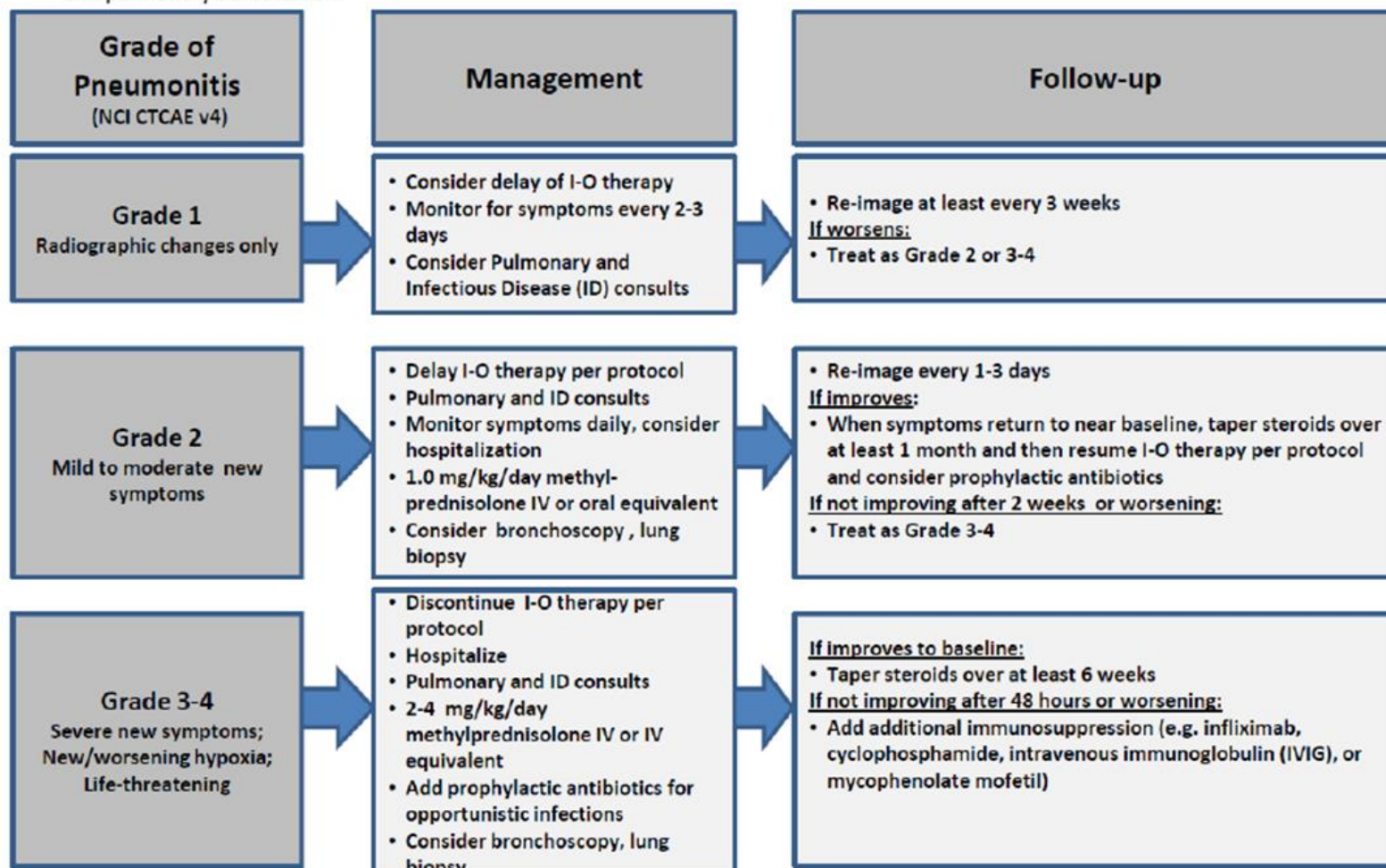
Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.

\*I-O therapy may be delayed rather than discontinued if AST/ALT ≤ 8 x ULN and T.bili ≤ 5 x ULN.

\*\*The recommended starting dose for grade 4 hepatitis is 2 mg/kg/day methylprednisolone IV.

# Pulmonary Adverse Event Management Algorithm

Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause, treat accordingly and continue I-O therapy. Evaluate with imaging and pulmonary consultation.

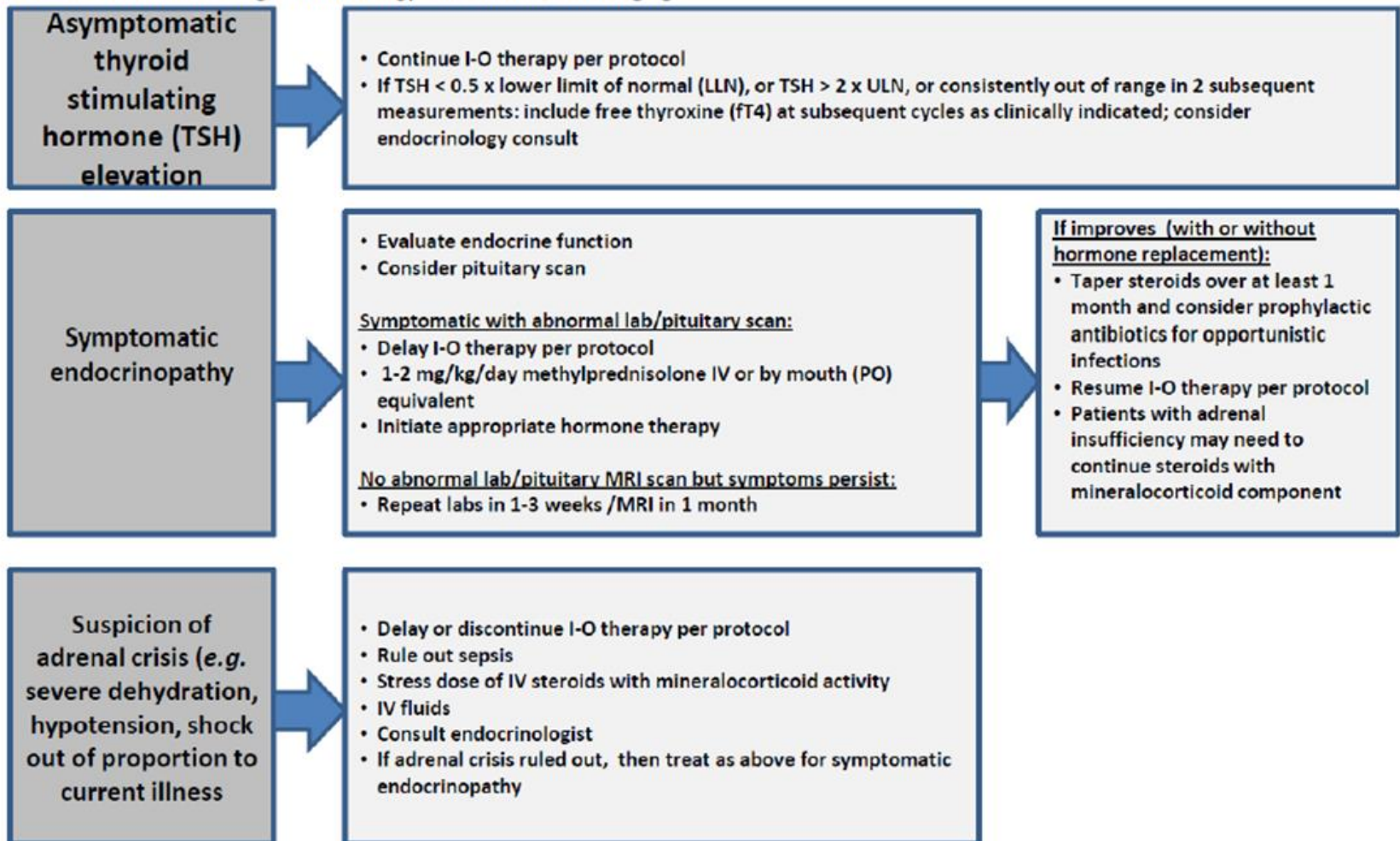


Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.



# Endocrinopathy Management Algorithm

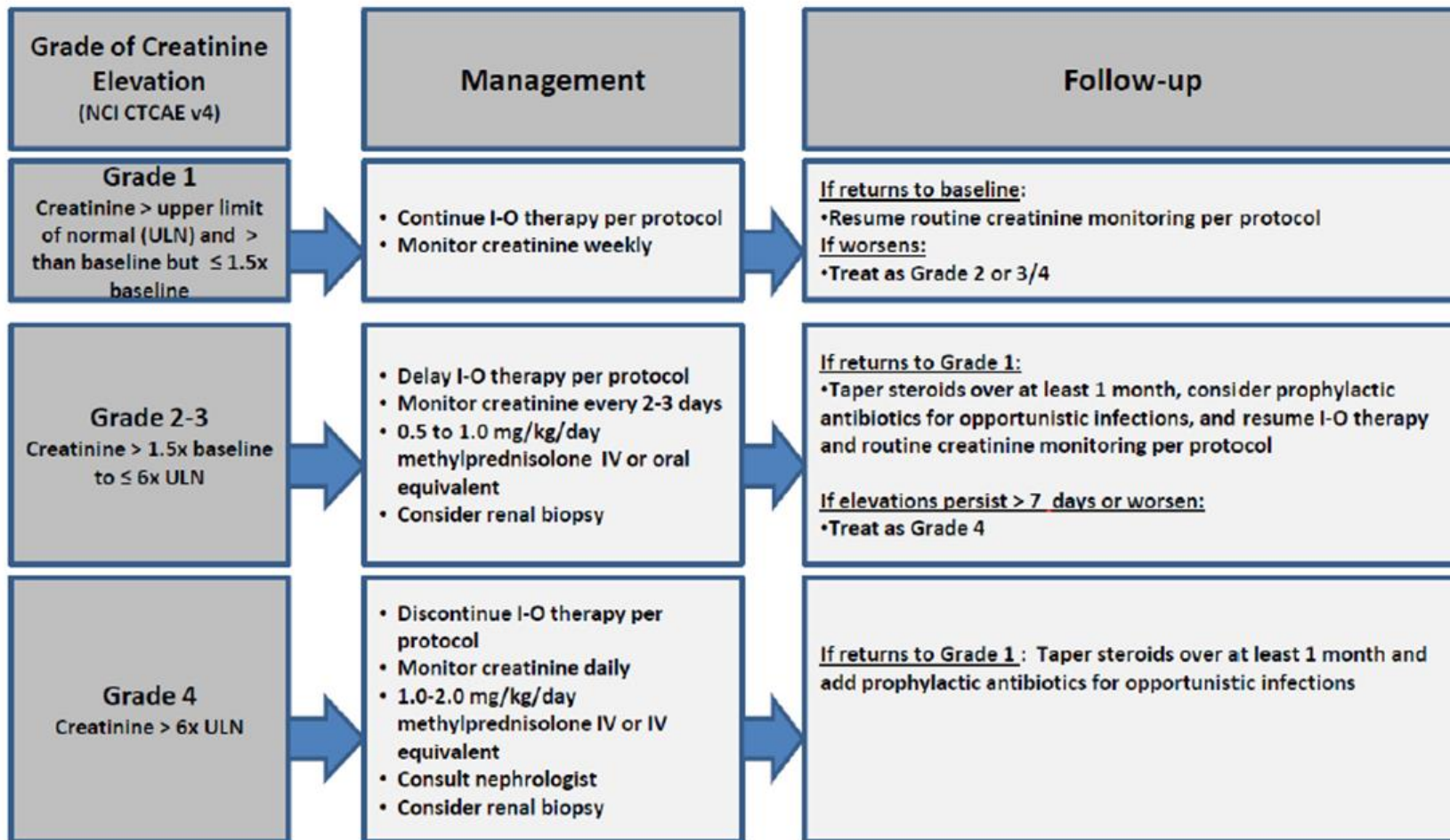
Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause, treat accordingly and continue immuno-oncology (I-O) therapy.  
Consider visual field testing, endocrinology consultation, and imaging.



Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.

# Renal Adverse Event Management Algorithm

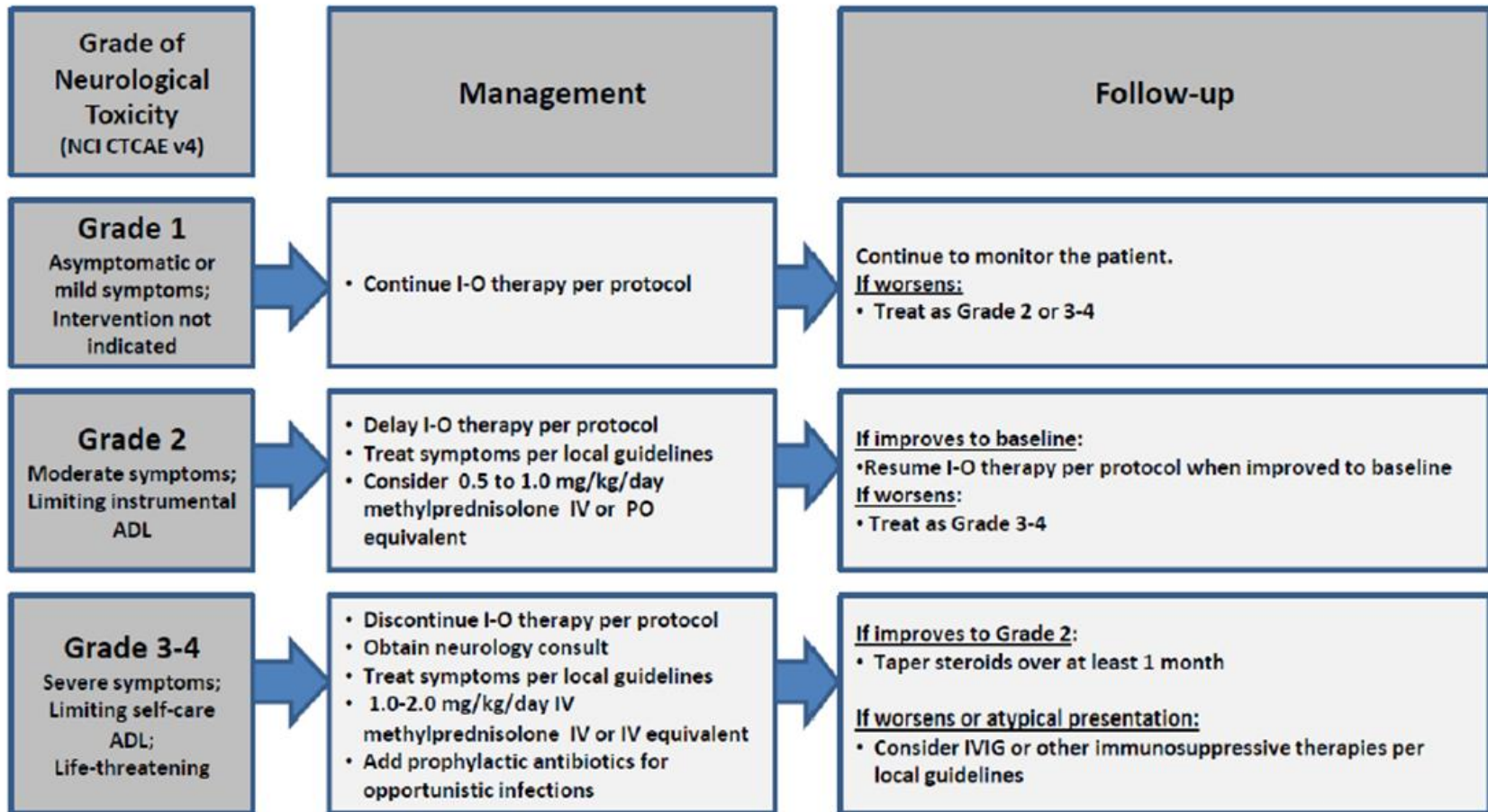
Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause, treat accordingly and continue I-O therapy



Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.

# Neurological Adverse Event Management Algorithm

Rule out non-inflammatory causes. If non-inflammatory cause, treat accordingly and continue I-O therapy.



Patients on IV steroids may be switched to an equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) at start of tapering or earlier, once sustained clinical improvement is observed. Lower bioavailability of oral corticosteroids should be taken into account when switching to the equivalent dose of oral corticosteroids.

# Laboratory and Testing

- Capability for all baseline and ongoing laboratory testing
- Coordination of appropriate testing prior to treatment with immunotherapy
- PD-L1 testing – reflex testing a best practice

Immunotherapy for malignant disease:

The “natural” approach to cancer treatment

What better way to distinguish the bad cells from the good?



# Immunotherapy and Palliative Care

- Why now?
  - Immunotherapy = now a mainstream event
    - Target population growing more than exponentially
  - Immunotherapy goal = durable disease control
    - Already achieved in melanoma, renal, others very likely
  - Immunotherapy toxicity = a new paradigm is essential
    - Does not resolve with stopping treatment
      - Must be actively treated
    - Does not resemble toxicity of chemotherapy
      - Must be carefully assessed

# Immunotherapy and Palliative Care

- Why now?
  - Immunotherapy of cancer is now a mainstream event
    - Target population growing more than exponentially
      - IFN – HCL, KS, melanoma, NHL
      - IL-2 – renal, melanoma
      - Anti-CTLA-4 – advanced and adjuvant melanoma
      - Anti-PD-1 – melanoma, NSC lung, renal, Hodgkin's, H+N, urothelial
      - Anti-PD-L1 – urothelial, NSC lung, Merkel cell
      - Others coming – both targets and tumor types
        - » OX40, CD39, KIR, CD94, MICA/B, CD73, TLR3, VISTA
        - » breast, colon, prostate, HCC, hematologic malignancies...

# Immunotherapy and Palliative Care

- Main points:
  - Goals of treatment = durable disease control/remission
  - Toxicities = adverse immune reactions [autoimmunity]
  - Rapidly evolving and complex landscape




# Summary

- I-O landscape is changing rapidly with many new agents in development for multiple disease states
- Financial impact on payers, patients, and providers
- Increased educational demands for all providers
- Palliative care will have a role in integrating with primary care teams to manage patients on I-O

# Questions?



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