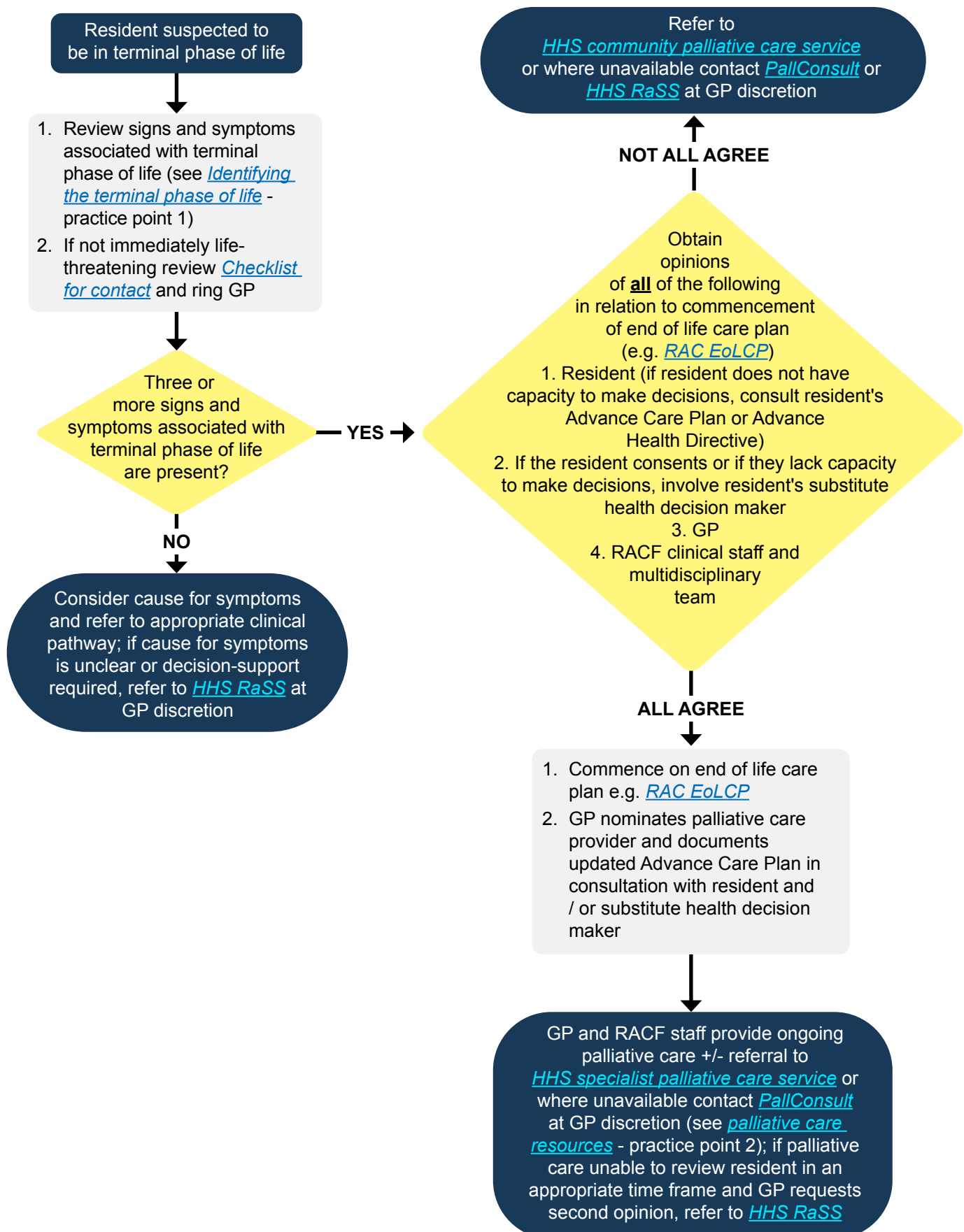


# End of life:

## Recognising and managing the terminal phase of life\*

\*use in conjunction with Queensland Government  
[Residential Aged Care End of Life Care Pathway \(RAC EoLCP\)](#)



## End of life management practice points

### 1) Identifying the terminal phase of life

If three or more of the below signs and symptoms are present, **AND** the resident (or their substitute health decision maker), the GP, and the multidisciplinary team **ALL** agree, it is appropriate to commence end of life care plan e.g. [End of Life Pathway \(RAC EoLP\)](#):

1. Experiencing rapid day to day deterioration that is not reversible
2. Requiring more frequent interventions
3. Becoming semi-conscious, with lapses into unconsciousness
4. Increasing loss of ability to swallow
5. Refusing or unable to take food, fluids or oral medication
6. Irreversible weight loss
7. An acute event has occurred requiring revision of treatment goals
8. Profound weakness
9. Changes in breathing patterns

**\*\*PLEASE note** - in some cases residents may be commenced on an end of life care plan (e.g. [RAC EoLCP](#)) and then taken off the pathway if their condition improves.

Where a resident does not meet three or more criteria, assess further for cause of deterioration. If a cause for deterioration is not identified, refer to [HHS RaSS](#) at GP discretion

### 2) Palliative care resources

**Specialist community palliative care services** work in collaboration with primary care providers and often provide:

1. Visits to the resident in the RACF
2. 24 hour telephone on-call services
3. Admission to inpatient palliative care beds where indicated

Specialist palliative care services may be accessed via:

- [HHS specific community palliative care service](#)

Where HHS specific community palliative care services are unavailable:

- [PallConsult](#)

Additional palliative care resources include:

- [How to use Residential Aged Care end of Life Care Pathway](#)
- [Guidelines for a palliative approach to care in Residential Aged Care](#)
- [Case Search Residential Aged Care palliative care resources](#)
- [End of life directions for aged care \(ELDAC\)](#)
- [Principles for palliative and end of life care in residential aged care](#)

## End of life: recognising and managing the terminal phase of life references

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## End of life: recognising and managing the terminal phase of life version control

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