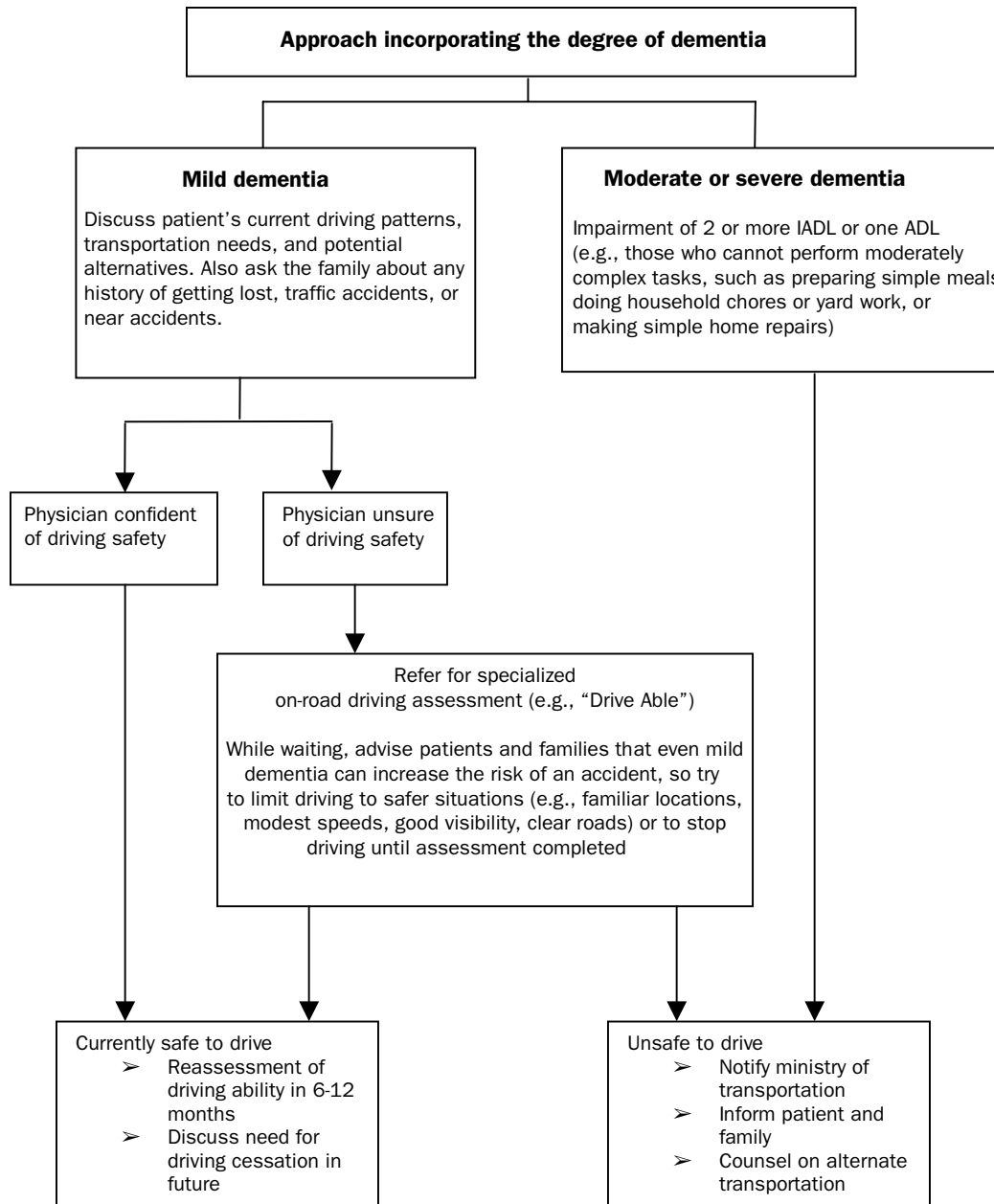


Appendix 4: Dementia and Fitness to Drive: Balancing safety with mobility and independence



CLINICAL TIPS
 Many people with early or mild dementia are capable of driving safely, but cognitive testing alone is not adequate to determine safety. The risk of crashes in drivers with dementia appears to be low for up to three years after disease onset, after which it does increase. The doctor's key roles are to make a decision on immediate safety to drive, arrange further assessment and ensure that the licensing agency is notified when indicated.

Sources: Canadian Medical Association. Determining medical fitness to operate motor vehicles: CMA Driver's Guide, 7th ed. Ottawa, 2006; Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias, 2nd edition 2007. The American Psychological Association (APA); Breen et al. Driving and Dementia. BMJ 2007;334:1365-1369.

