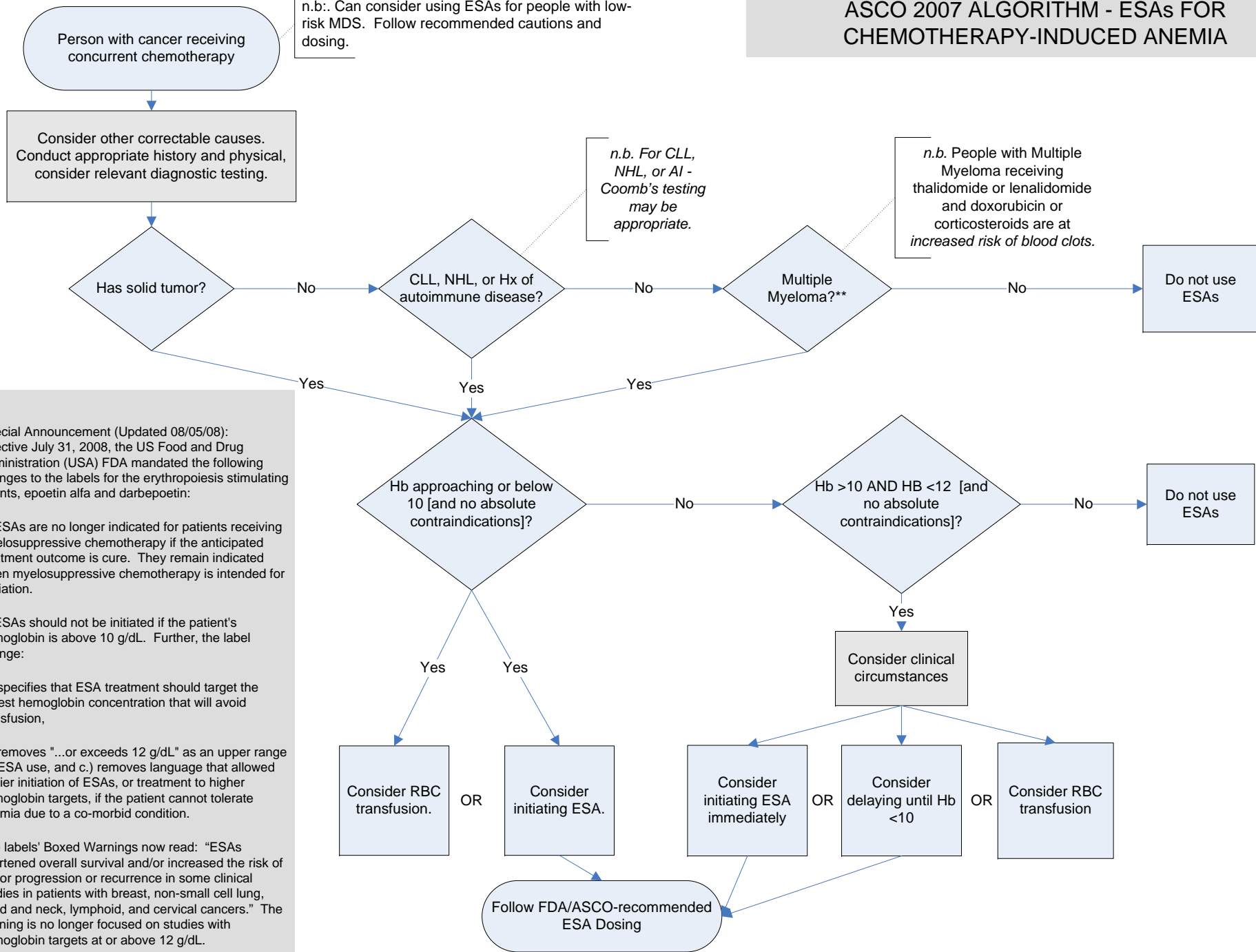


ASCO 2007 ALGORITHM - ESAs FOR CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED ANEMIA

n.b.: Can consider using ESAs for people with low-risk MDS. Follow recommended cautions and dosing.



Special Announcement (Updated 08/05/08): Effective July 31, 2008, the US Food and Drug Administration (USA) FDA mandated the following changes to the labels for the erythropoiesis stimulating agents, epoetin alfa and darbepoetin:

1) ESAs are no longer indicated for patients receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy if the anticipated treatment outcome is cure. They remain indicated when myelosuppressive chemotherapy is intended for palliation.

2) ESAs should not be initiated if the patient's hemoglobin is above 10 g/dL. Further, the label change:

a.) specifies that ESA treatment should target the lowest hemoglobin concentration that will avoid transfusion,

b.) removes "...or exceeds 12 g/dL" as an upper range for ESA use, and c.) removes language that allowed earlier initiation of ESAs, or treatment to higher hemoglobin targets, if the patient cannot tolerate anemia due to a co-morbid condition.

The labels' Boxed Warnings now read: "ESAs shortened overall survival and/or increased the risk of tumor progression or recurrence in some clinical studies in patients with breast, non-small cell lung, head and neck, lymphoid, and cervical cancers." The warning is no longer focused on studies with hemoglobin targets at or above 12 g/dL.