

Specific Decision Making

What it is: An option under the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act for healthcare and accommodation decisions that does not require a court order

Who is it for: SDM is for adults who:

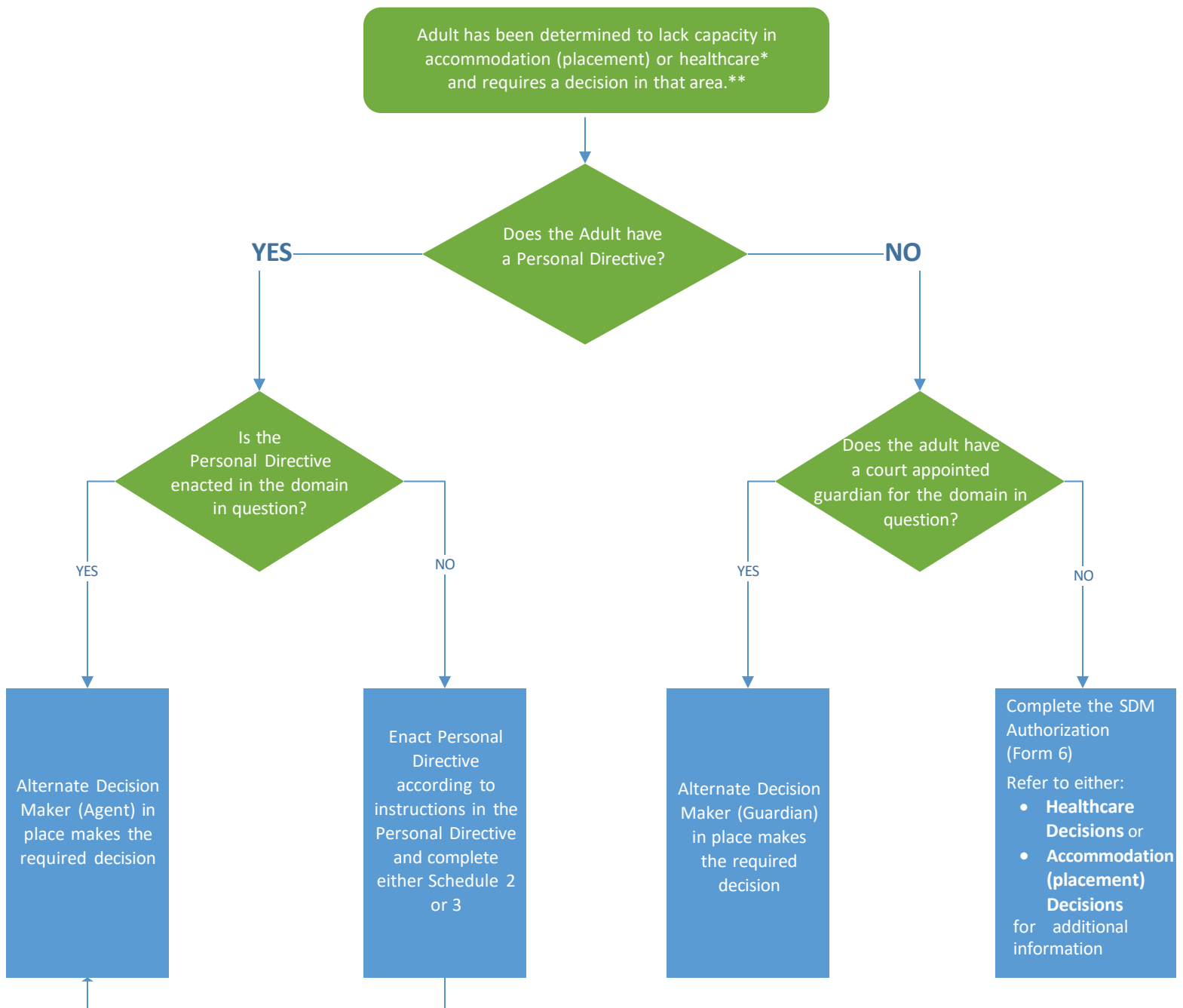
- require a time sensitive decision in the domain of healthcare or accommodation only,
- lack capacity to make this decision, and
- do not have a guardian or a personal directive.

Assessment under SDM: Only a physician, nurse practitioner or dentist (for dental care only) can assess an adult's ability to make the specific decision and selects a relative to act as a specific-decision maker for this decision only.

How does it work: Relatives must be chosen by their "rank" (e.g., spouse should be the first person contacted). If there is no relative or a dispute arises, the Public Guardian can act as the specific decision maker. Using a specific decision maker does not equate to the adult being permanently impaired. The specific decision maker is not an ongoing decision maker.

Algorithms Outlining SDM processes: In addition to following capacity assessment process, there are additional processes when using Specific Decision Making (SDM):

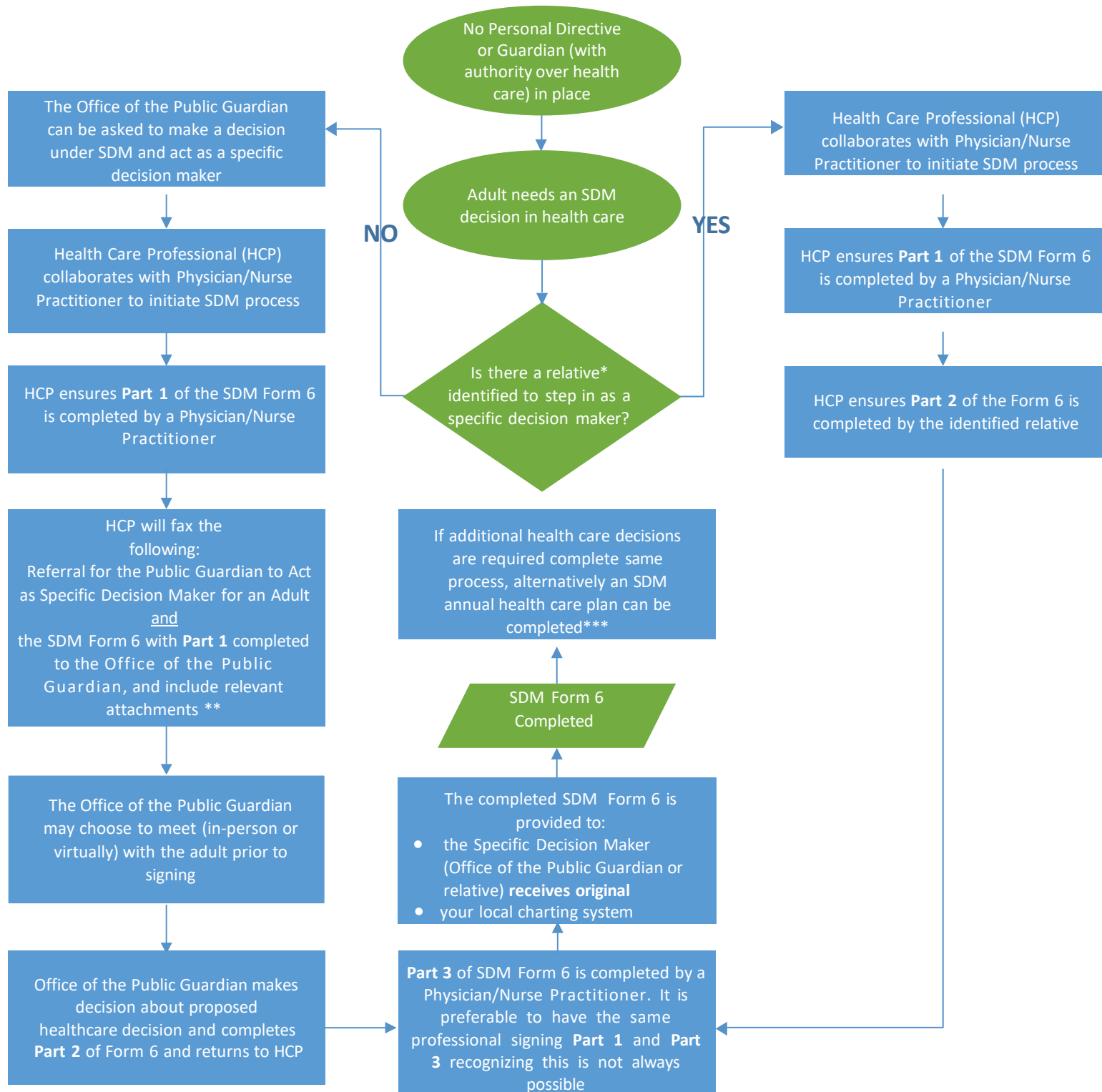
Specific Decision-Making (SDM) Overview



*SDM cannot be used for all health care decisions. Exclusions include: psychosurgery, sterilization that is not medically necessary, removal of tissue for medical/research purposes, decisions that are treatment decisions or community treatment orders under the Mental Health Act or any type of health care where a decision respecting the provision of or withdrawal or withholding of the healthcare would be likely to result in imminent death of the adult. Please refer to the Adult Guardian and Trusteeship Act for clarification.

** For more information about the Decision Making Capacity Process please refer to the DMCA Model Toolkit
https://www.covenanthealth.ca/sites/default/files/2023-11/decision-making-capacity-assessment-model-toolkit_2.pdf

Health Care Decision Specific Decision-Making (SDM)



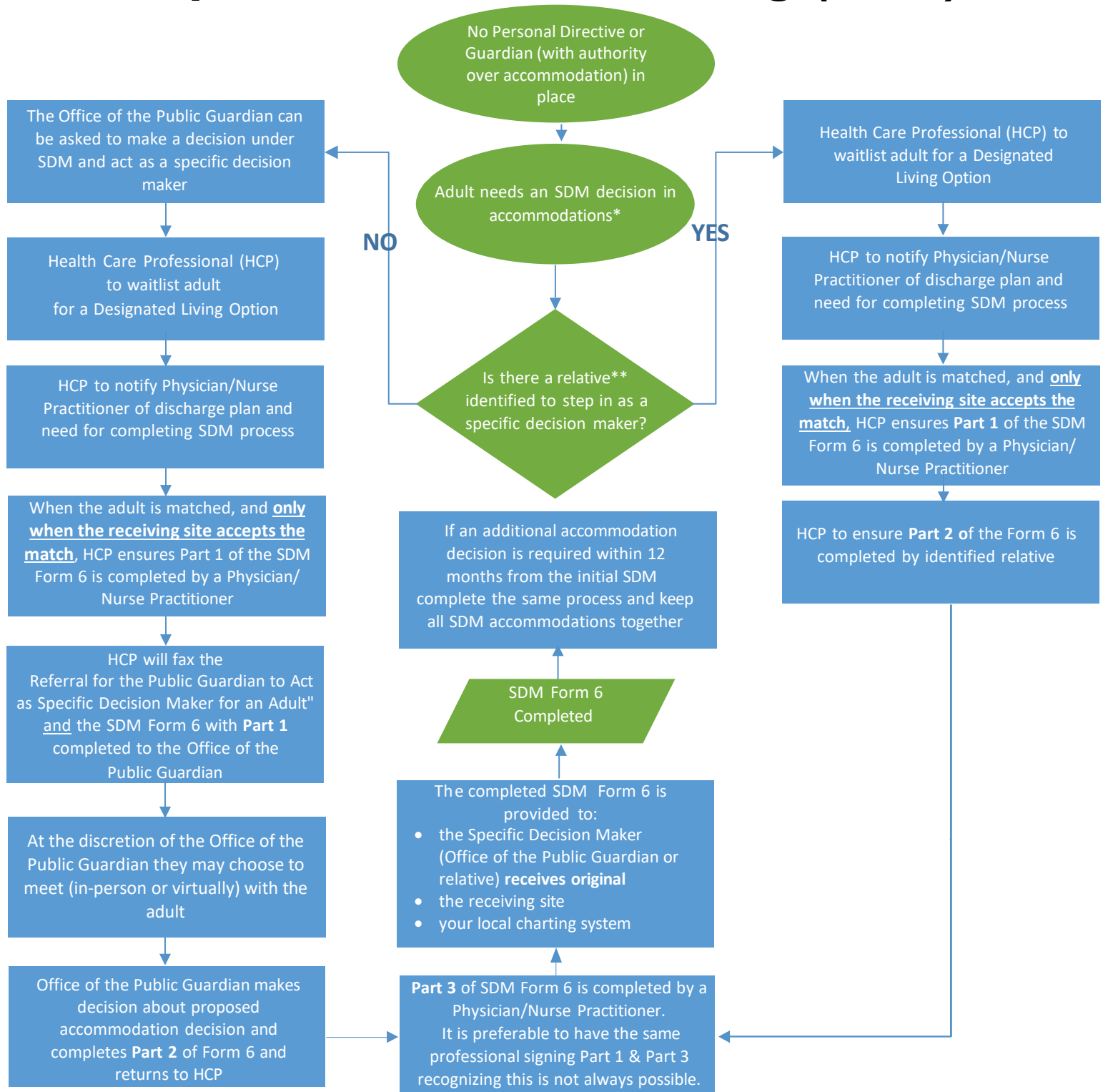
* If there is contention regarding selecting a specific decision maker please refer to the definition of "nearest relative" under Definitions in the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act. If the nearest relative is not selected as the Specific Decision Maker then make reasonable efforts to notify the nearest relative of the SDM decision as per Section 94 (1) in the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act.

** Examples of relevant attachments may include: annual health care plans, vaccine information, medication lists.

***At the time of writing this document, vaccines require their own SDM. There may be other other exclusions. If you have further questions, please reach out to your Decision-Making Capacity Resource team.

Accommodation Decision

Specific Decision-Making (SDM)



*An SDM for accommodations is a decision lasting 12 months. This is a time-sensitive decision and should be completed as close to the move as possible. An SDM is required for each successive move within the 12 month time frame if the adult continues to lack capacity. Guardianship will need to be initiated if accommodation decisions are required after this time. The total duration from the initial SDM for accommodations cannot exceed 12 months.

** If there is contention regarding selecting a specific decision maker please refer to the definition of "nearest relative" under Definitions in the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act. If the nearest relative is not selected as the Specific Decision Maker then make reasonable efforts to notify the nearest relative of the SDM decision as per Section 94 (1) in the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act.