

# Chief Psychiatrist

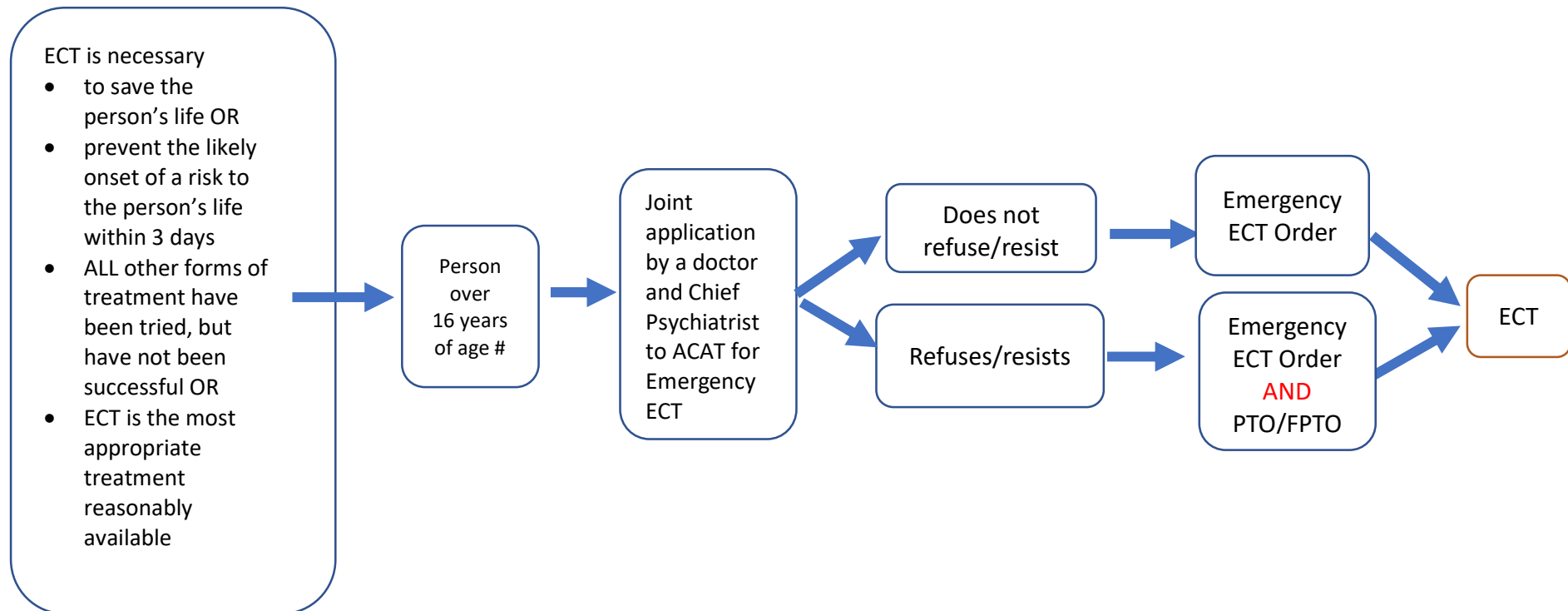
## ADVISORY NOTE

### Requirements for the authorisation of Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)

ISSUE	The decision-making process for the administration of ECT treatment.
SCOPE	Clinicians involved in administration of ECT.
DEFINITIONS	<p><b>ACAT</b> is the ACT Civil &amp; Administrative Tribunal</p> <p><b>Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)</b> means a procedure for the induction of an epileptiform convulsion in a person</p> <p><b>Electroconvulsive therapy order</b> means an order made by the ACAT for the administration of ECT</p>
ADVICE	<p>ECT may be given to a person with or without decision making capacity. However, ECT cannot be administered to a person under 12 years of age.</p> <p>The various pathways for seeking consent to administer ECT are explained in the following attachments:</p> <p><b>Attachment 1</b> – Emergency ECT</p> <p><b>Attachment 2</b> - Administration of ECT – person has decision-making capacity AND consents</p> <p><b>Attachment 3</b> - Administration of ECT – person does not have decision-making capacity</p>
IMPLEMENTATION	<p>This Advisory will be part of orientation for all staff involved in the requirements for administration of ECT.</p> <p>Services may develop their own policies and procedures to implement this advice.</p>
RELEVANT LEGISLATION	<a href="#"><u>Mental Health Act 2015</u></a>

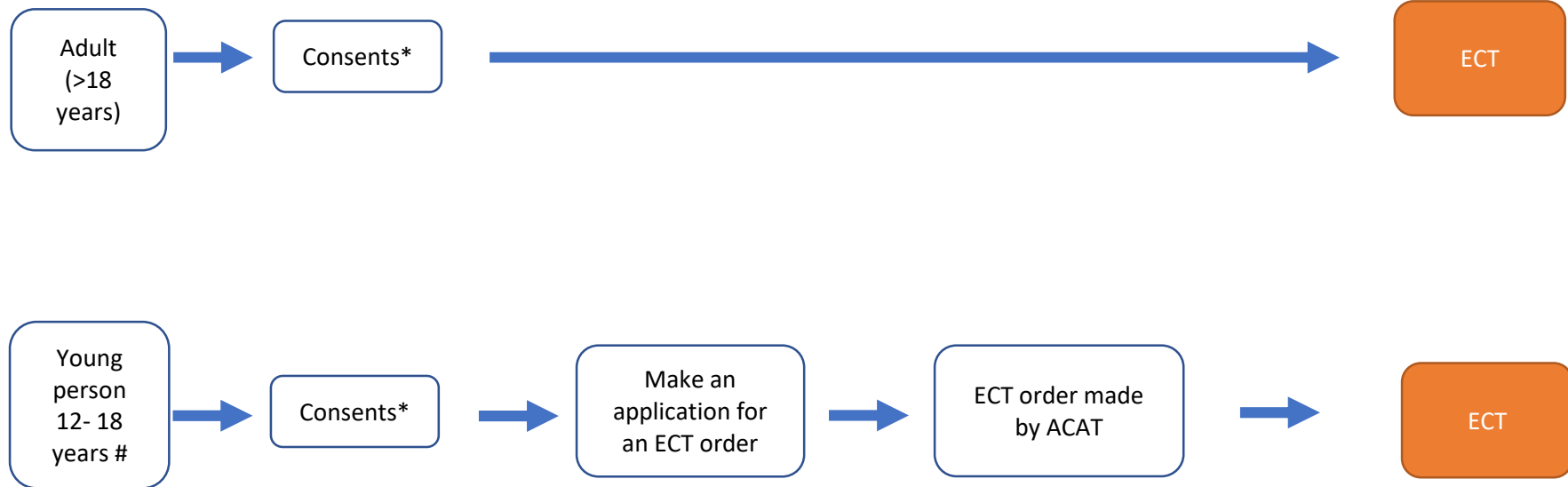
## Attachment 1 - Emergency ECT application criteria and process

- ACAT can authorise maximum of 3 ECT treatments and the order is for a stated number of days, although a maximum of 7.
- An emergency ECT order cannot be made for a person under 16 years of age.



# If between 16-18 years, application for ECT must be supported by a child and adolescent psychiatrist

## Attachment 2 - Administration of ECT – person has decision-making capacity AND consents

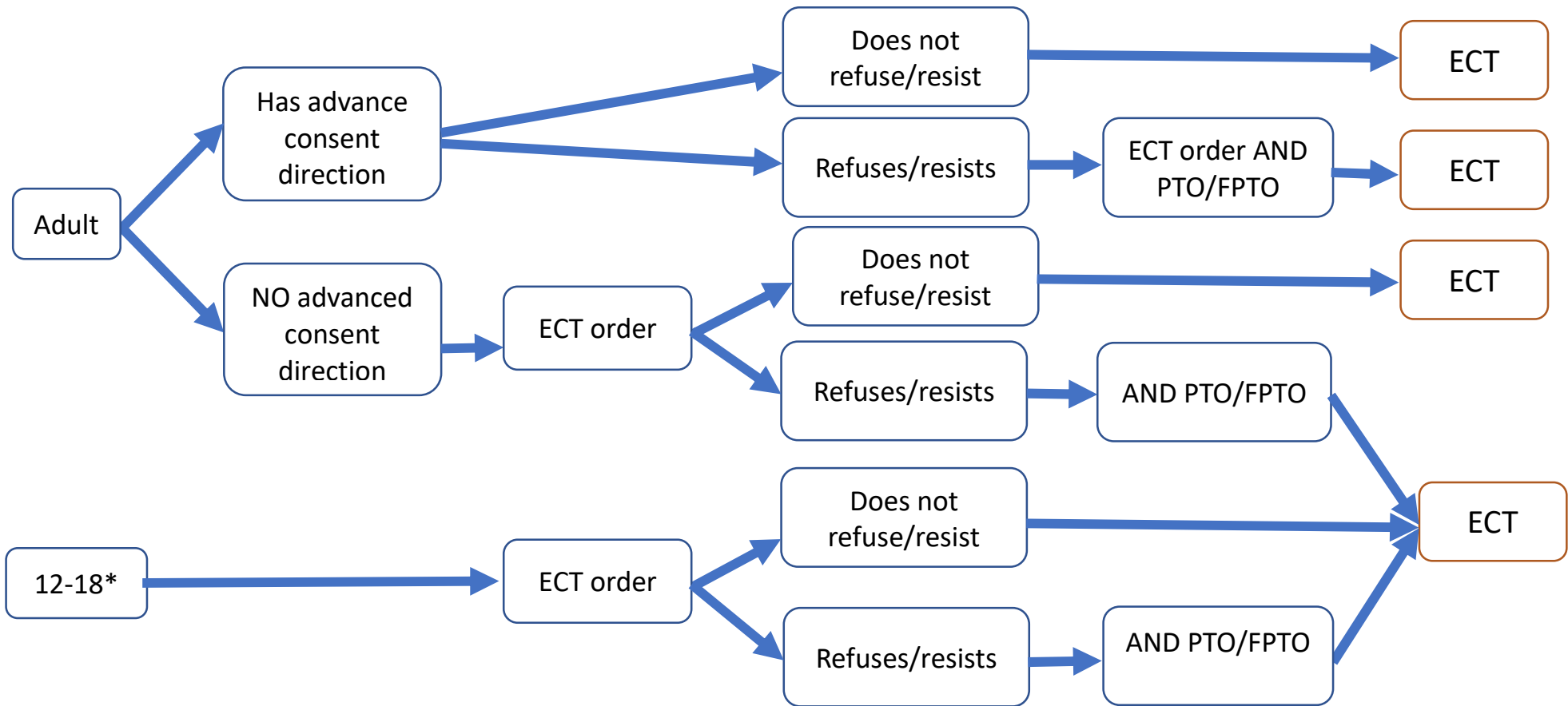


# Application for ECT must be supported by a child and adolescent psychiatrist

\* Consent must be in writing and witnessed by two people other than:

- The person seeking to obtain consent
- The doctor who is proposing to conduct ECT

**Attachment 3 - Administration of ECT – person does not have decision-making capacity**



\* Application for ECT must be supported by a child and adolescent psychiatrist