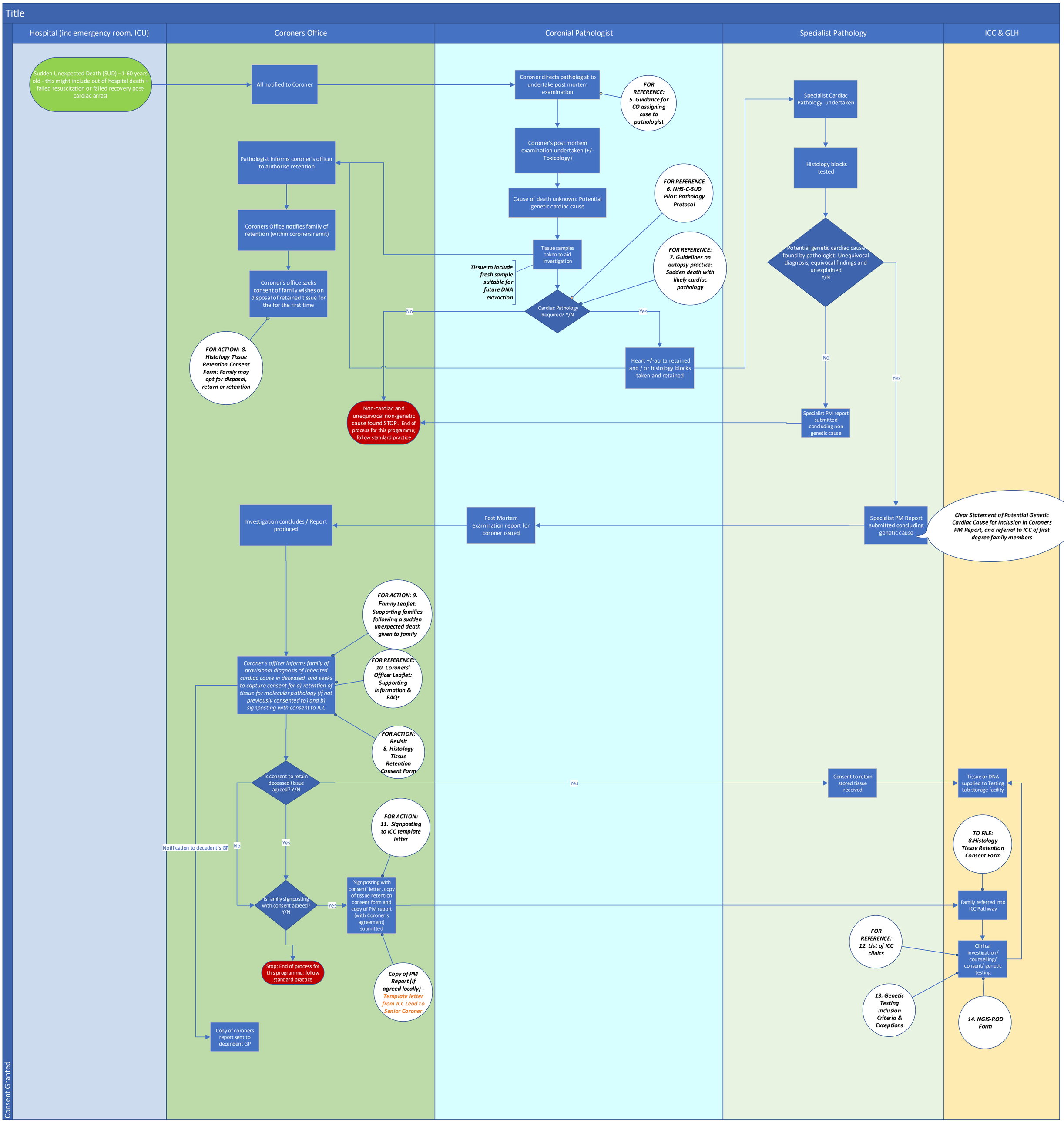
Title
Hospital (inc emergency room, ICU)
Coroners Office
Coronial Pathologist
Specialist Pathology
ICC & GLH
Consent Granted
Sudden Unexpected Death (SUD) –1-60 years old - this might include out of hospital death + failed resuscitation or failed recovery post-cardiac arrest
All notified to Coroner
Coroner directs pathologist to undertake post mortem examination
FOR REFERENCE: 5. Guidance for CO assigning case to pathologist
Coroner's post mortem examination undertaken (+/- Toxicology)
Cause of death unknown: Potential genetic cardiac cause
FOR REFERENCE 6. NHS-C-SUD Pilot: Pathology Protocol
Tissue samples taken to aid investigation
Tissue to include fresh sample suitable for future DNA extraction
FOR REFERENCE: 7. Guidelines on autopsy practice: Sudden death with likely cardiac pathology
Cardiac Pathology Required? Y/N
No
Yes
Heart +/-aorta retained and / or histology blocks taken and retained
Pathologist informs coroner's officer to authorise retention
Coroners Office notifies family of retention (within coroners remit)
Coroner's office seeks consent of family wishes on disposal of retained tissue for the for the first time
FOR ACTION: 8. Histology Tissue Retention Consent Form: Family may opt for disposal, return or retention
Non-cardiac and unequivocal non-genetic cause found STOP. End of process for this programme; follow standard practice
Specialist Cardiac Pathology undertaken
Histology blocks tested
Potential genetic cardiac cause found by pathologist: Unequivocal diagnosis, equivocal findings and unexplained Y/N
No
Yes
Specialist PM report submitted concluding non genetic cause
Specialist PM Report submitted concluding genetic cause
Clear Statement of Potential Genetic Cardiac Cause for Inclusion in Coroners PM Report, and referral to ICC of first degree family members
Post Mortem examination report for coroner issued
Investigation concludes / Report produced
FOR ACTION: 9. Family Leaflet: Supporting families following a sudden unexpected death given to family
Coroner's officer informs family of provisional diagnosis of inherited cardiac cause in deceased and seeks to capture consent for a) retention of tissue for molecular pathology (if not previously consented to) and b) signposting with consent to ICC
FOR REFERENCE: 10. Coroners' Officer Leaflet: Supporting Information & FAQs
FOR ACTION: Revisit 8. Histology Tissue Retention Consent Form
Is consent to retain deceased tissue agreed? Y/N
Yes
Consent to retain stored tissue received
Tissue or DNA supplied to Testing Lab storage facility
Notification to decedent's GP
No
Yes
FOR ACTION: 11. Signposting to ICC template letter
TO FILE: 8.Histology Tissue Retention Consent Form
Is family signposting with consent agreed? Y/N
Yes
'Signposting with consent' letter, copy of tissue retention consent form and copy of PM report (with Coroner's agreement) submitted
Family referred into ICC Pathway
FOR REFERENCE: 12. List of ICC clinics
Clinical investigation/ counselling/ consent/ genetic testing
Stop; End of process for this programme; follow standard practice
Copy of PM Report (if agreed locally) - Template letter from ICC Lead to Senior Coroner
13. Genetic Testing Inclusion Criteria & Exceptions
14. NGIS-ROD Form
Copy of coroners report sent to decendent GP