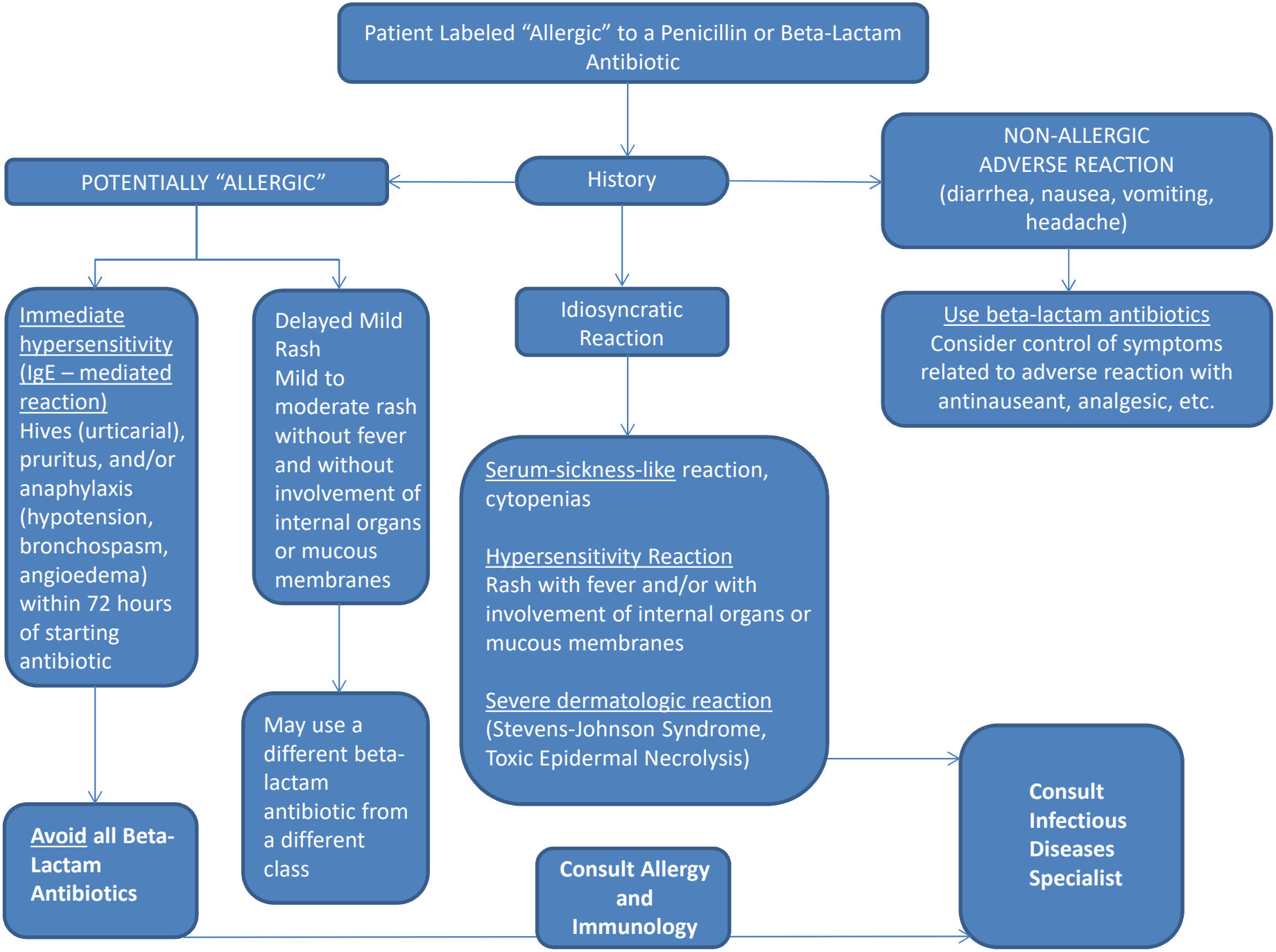
Patient Labeled "Allergic" to a Penicillin or Beta-Lactam Antibiotic
History
POTENTIALLY "ALLERGIC"
NON-ALLERGIC ADVERSE REACTION (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache)
Immediate hypersensitivity (IgE – mediated reaction) Hives (urticarial), pruritus, and/or anaphylaxis (hypotension, bronchospasm, angioedema) within 72 hours of starting antibiotic
Delayed Mild Rash Mild to moderate rash without fever and without involvement of internal organs or mucous membranes
Idiosyncratic Reaction
Use beta-lactam antibiotics Consider control of symptoms related to adverse reaction with antinauseant, analgesic, etc.
Serum-sickness-like reaction, cytopenias
Hypersensitivity Reaction Rash with fever and/or with involvement of internal organs or mucous membranes
Severe dermatologic reaction (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis)
Avoid all Beta-Lactam Antibiotics
May use a different beta-lactam antibiotic from a different class
Consult Allergy and Immunology
Consult Infectious Diseases Specialist