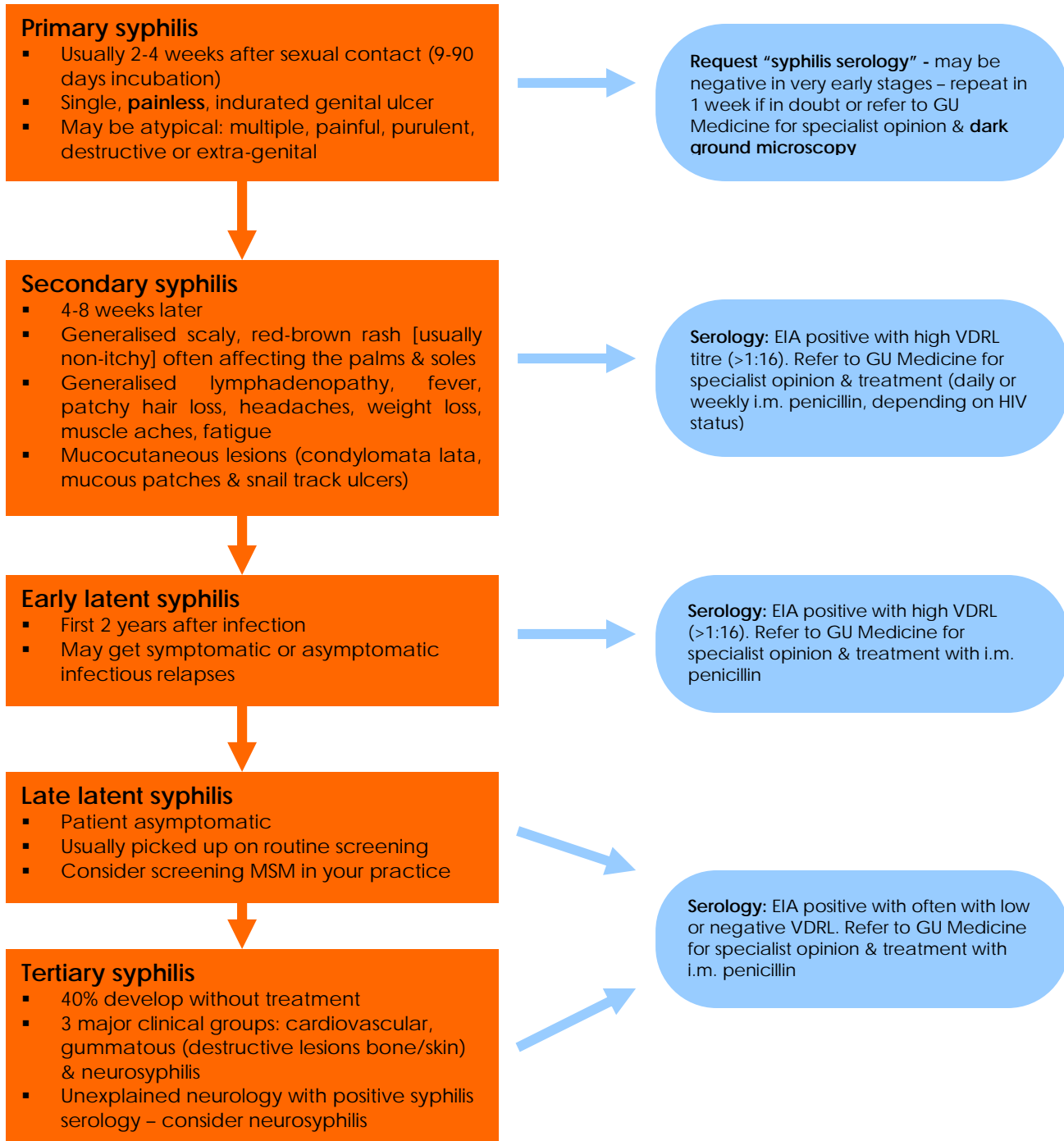


- **Syphilis in Brighton:** Increase in diagnoses since 1999 from 1-2 to more than 100 cases in 2004
- Mainly affecting men who have sex with men (MSM), but with sporadic heterosexual cases
- Sexual transmission (including oral sex) is the rule; non-sexual transmission uncommon
- **All stages may be asymptomatic;** having syphilis does not protect from re-infection



A **sexual history** should be taken for all patients suspected of having syphilis. Have a high index of suspicion if new or multiple sexual contacts within last 3 months, particularly in MSM.