Figure. Steps in the diagnosis of asthma in adults

**VARIABLE RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS THAT SUGGEST ASTHMA**

**HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**
- Table. Findings that increase or decrease the probability of asthma in adults
- Supports asthma diagnosis?

**SPIROMETRY**
- FEV₁ before and 10-15 mins after bronchodilator
- *Reversible airflow limitation? (FEV₁ increase ≥200 mL and ≥12% from baseline)*
- *Expiratory airflow limitation? (FEV₁/FVC < lower limit of normal for age)*

**INVESTIGATIONS FOR SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS**
- Alternative diagnosis confirmed?

**FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS**
- Tests as indicated
- Consider bronchial provocation test
- Supports asthma diagnosis?

**ASTHMA**
- Start asthma treatment and review response

**ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS**
- NO

**CONSIDER REFERRAL**
- YES