Flowchart for deciding when a procedure is planned

**Principles**
At the time a clinician makes a decision to treat or investigate a patient's condition, they need to clearly record how they intend to manage that treatment or investigation eg bilateral operations.

**Definition of what we mean by ‘planned admission’**
A planned admission occurs when a patient is admitted, having been given a date or approximate date at the time that the decision to treat or investigate is made. This is usually part of a planned sequence of clinical care determined mainly on social or clinical criteria. A planned admission is one where the date of admission is determined by the needs of the treatment rather than by availability of resources.

Although a planned admission is usually part of a planned sequence of clinical care, there are occasions when this is not the case and admission is a ‘one off’ event. Examples include medical TOPs and age related paediatric operations.

**Difference between a booked admission and a planned admission**
A booked admission occurs when a patient is admitted having been given a date at the time the decision to admit was made, determined mainly on the grounds of resource availability.

### Deciding if a treatment or investigation is planned

1] Has the patient been given a date or an approximate date of admission?

   ![Flowchart](chart.png)

   - **Yes**
     - May be a planned procedure, go to next question
   - **No**
     - Not a planned procedure, list on the active waiting list

2] If resources were available now, would the patient be admitted?

   - **Yes**
     - Not a planned procedure, list on the active waiting list
   - **No**
     - This is a planned procedure, add to the planned waiting list