Assess patient for red-flags

Are any of the following present?
- Hemorrhoid is protruding from the anus and requires manual replacement
- Black, tarry stool
- Small amounts of blood persisting for >6 weeks, or substantial amounts of blood
- Rectal bleeding occurring with change in bowel habits (loose stool and increased frequency) for >6 weeks
- Symptoms have persisted for >7 days, despite treatment, without improvement
- Frequent recurrent episodes of bleeding hemorrhoids
- Hemorrhoids causing severe discomfort for pregnant patients

Review symptoms:
- Anal pain
- Itch
- Small amounts of blood on toilet paper or in toilet bowl
- Straining with defecation
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Palpable lump
+-/- previous diagnosis of hemorrhoids by physician

Unsure of patient self-diagnosis
- Non-pharmacologic measures; AND,
  - Recommend OTC product; OR,
  - Prescribe combination hydrocortisone product

No improvement
- Stop pharmacologic treatment
- Continue non-pharmacologic measures to prevent recurrence

Follow up in 7 days
- Symptoms resolved

Assess patient factors

Are any of the following present?
- <12 years old
- Risk factors for colorectal cancer:
  - >50 years old
  - Inflammatory bowel disease
  - Personal or strong family history of polyps / colorectal cancer
- Pregnant with severe discomfort

YES
YES
NO
NO

REFER
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