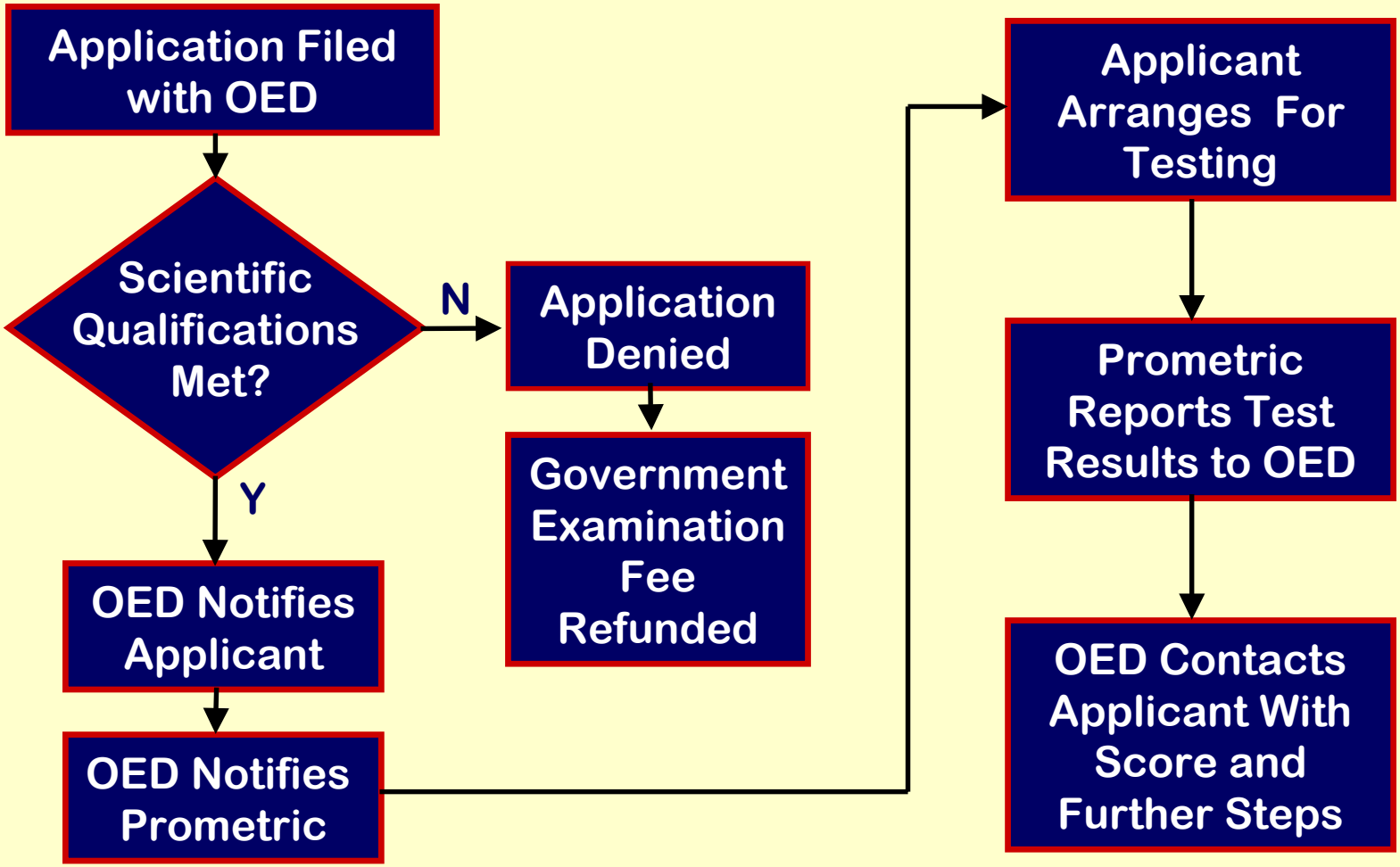
Examination for Registration to Practice in Patent Cases Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Computer–Based Examination

Computer-Based Examination

- To be offered continuously beginning April 2004
- Multiple choice format with five choices
- Initial implementation will be 100 question linear examination in two sessions
- Applicants will receive exam results approximately six weeks after testing
- “Real-time” exam results are planned

The Life of an Application



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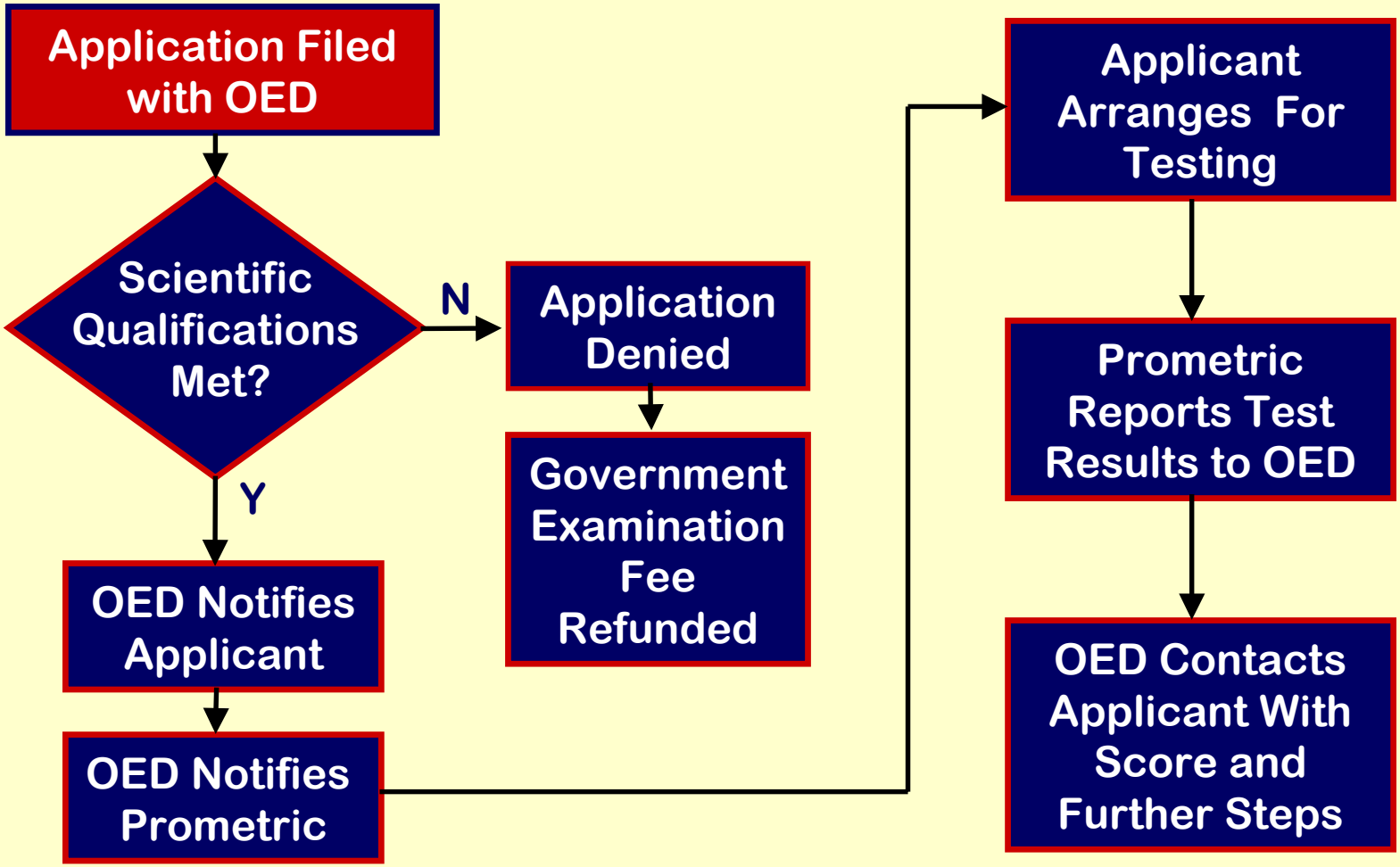

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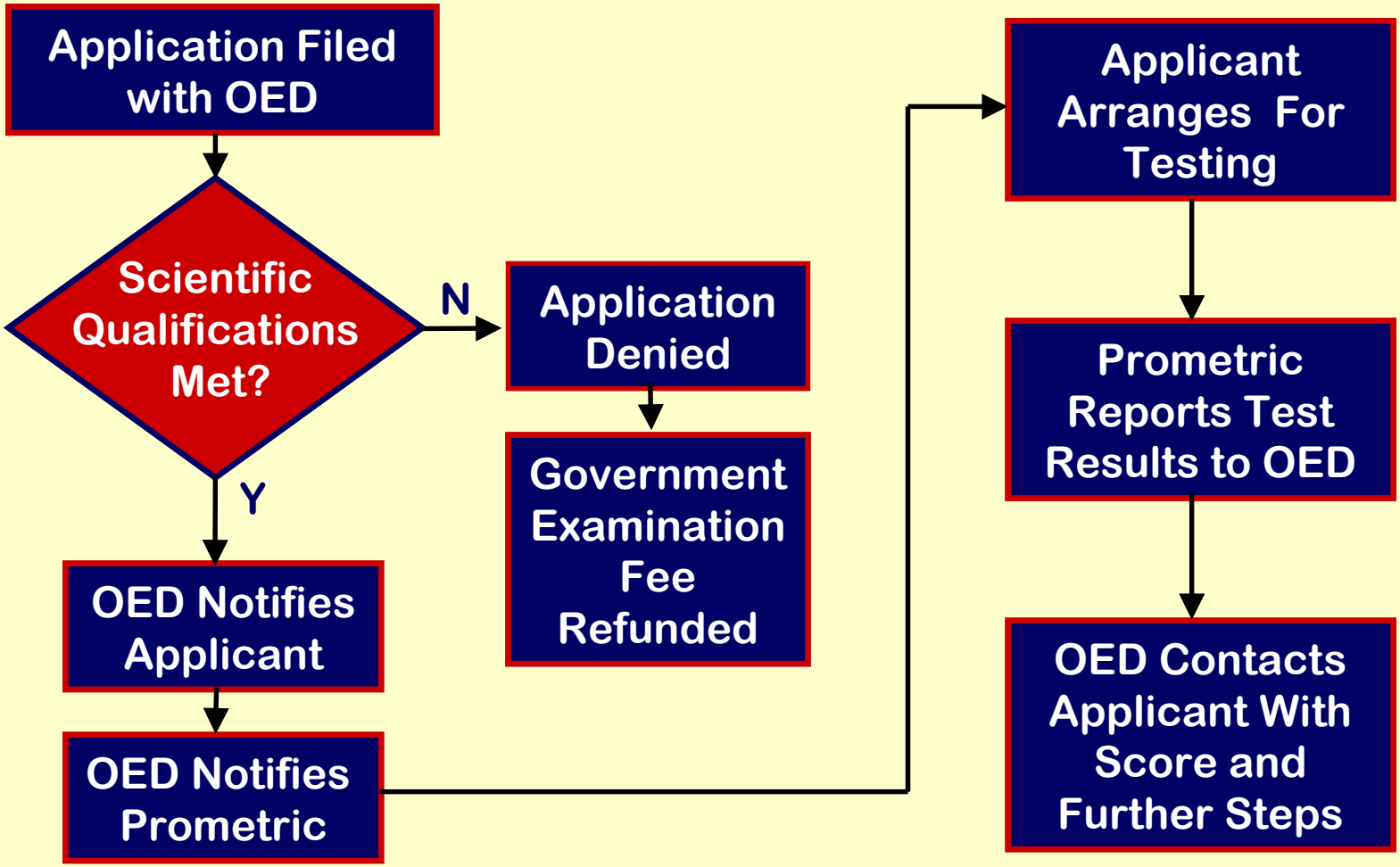

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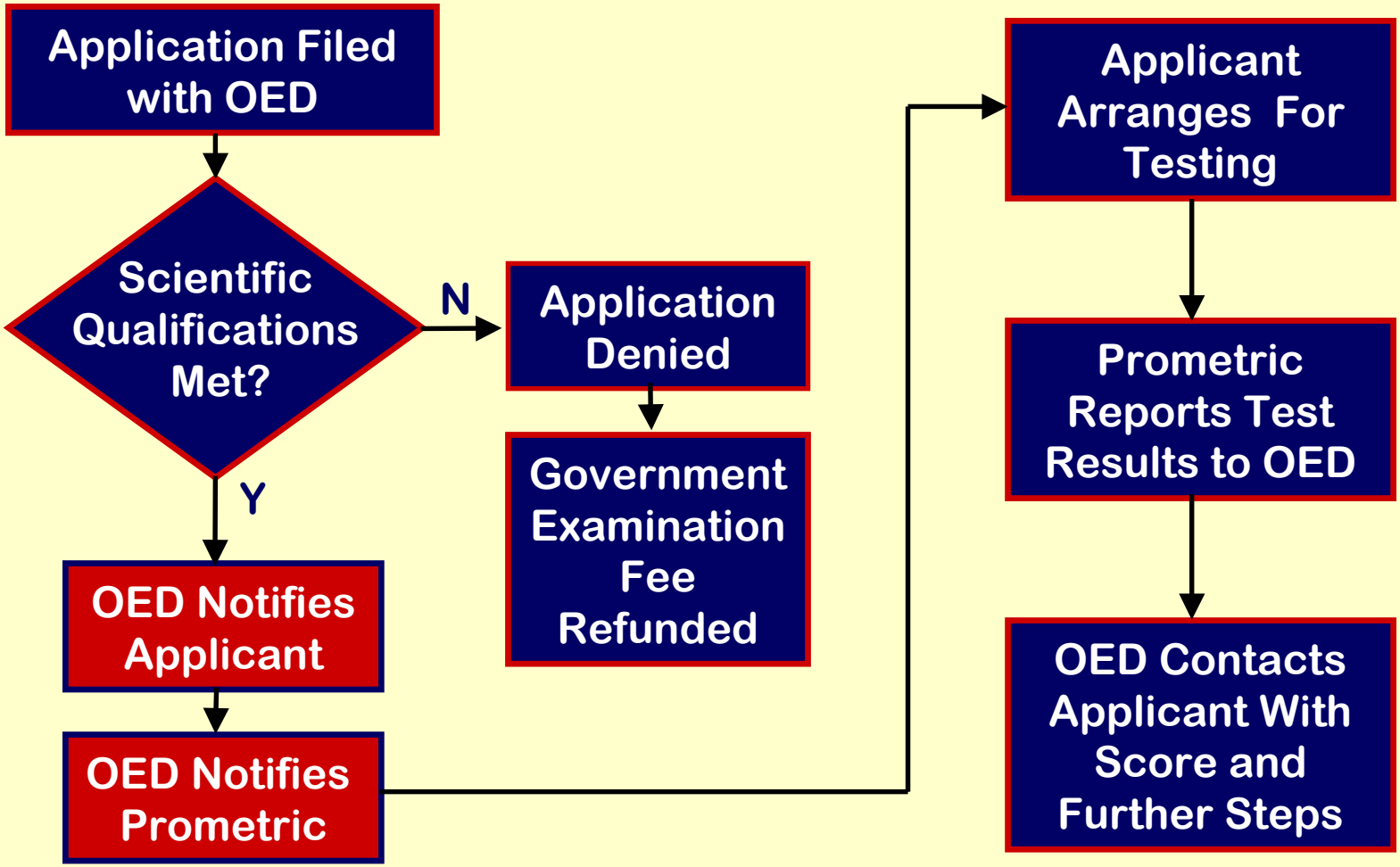

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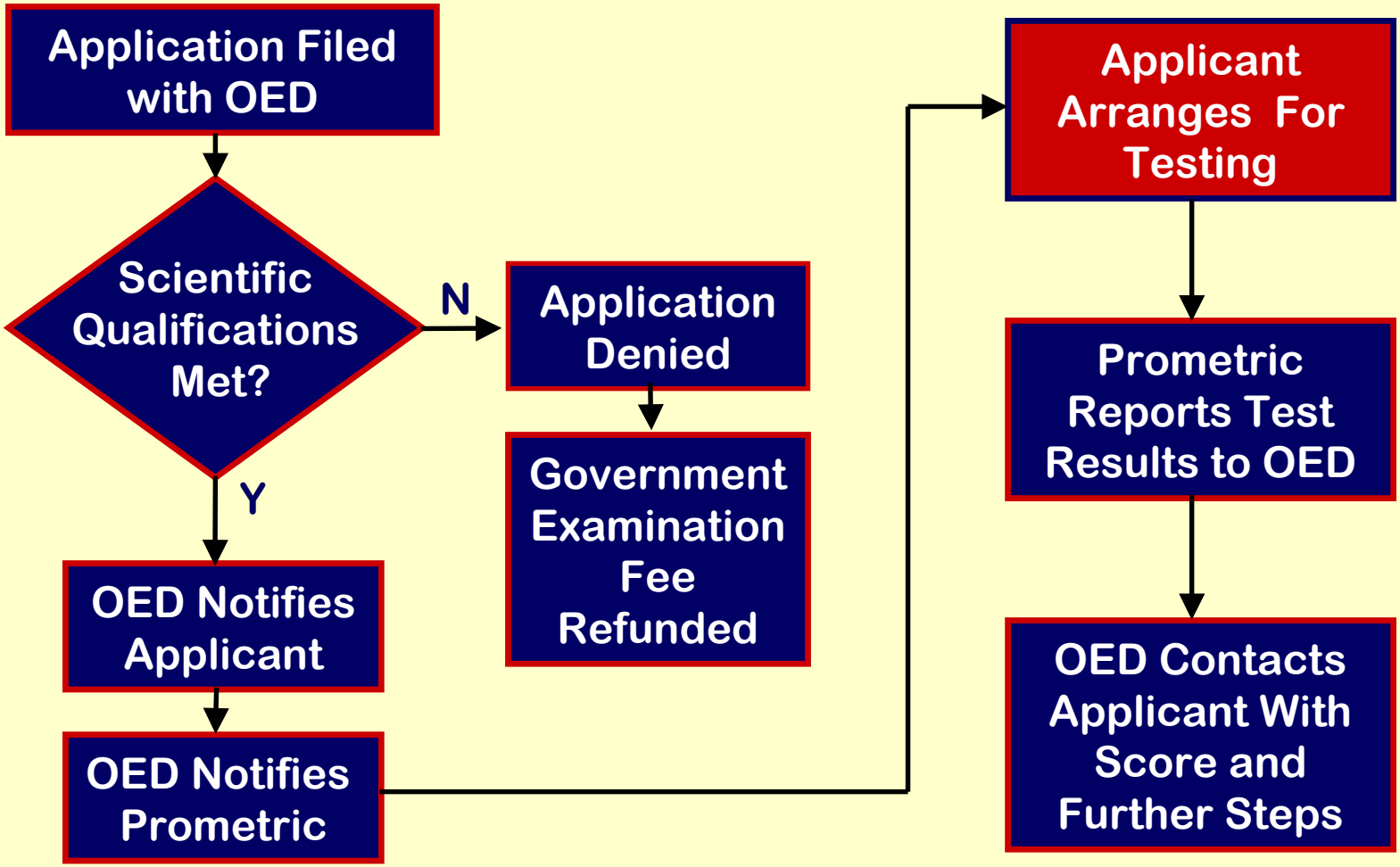

Scheduling With Prometric

- Several scheduling options
  1) Internet
  2) Toll-free call to customer service center
  3) Direct contact with local testing center
- Customer service center requires 48 hours lead time. Otherwise, applicant will be directed to contact local testing center directly.
- Late applicants and no-shows will be subject to Prometric rescheduling and fee policies.
- Prometric will not have the authority to schedule outside 90 day testing window assigned by OED

The Testing Center Experience

- A current, valid government-issued ID containing both a photo and signature is required for admission.
- Candidates will be required to sign a signature log. The date and time that the candidate enters and exits the testing room will be recorded and the signature in the log will be verified against the photo ID.
- An electronic photograph will be taken of each candidate.

Will it be difficult to operate the computer test station?

Prometric has extensive test provider experience and has developed a test engine that is readily operated by even inexperienced computer users. A fifteen minute tutorial is provided prior to start of the examination to familiarize applicants with operation of the test engine.

What about during the test?

- **Candidates are provided scratch paper and a pencil. Other than scratch paper, no materials are permitted in the testing room. The scratch paper and the pencil will be collected at the end of the testing session, and the scratch paper will be destroyed.**
- **There will be a timed and scheduled one hour lunch break. No other timed or scheduled breaks are built into the examination. The candidate may take only unscheduled breaks during which the test timing will continue.**
- **The testing area will be continuously proctored and videotaped during the examination.**

But how about reference materials?

All questions are drawn from the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. An on-line version of the MPEP will be available to applicants during the examination.

Following issuance of a new version of the MPEP, OED will announce a date on which questions based solely on a new version may appear on the examination. This date will be at least 90 days from the date of the announcement.

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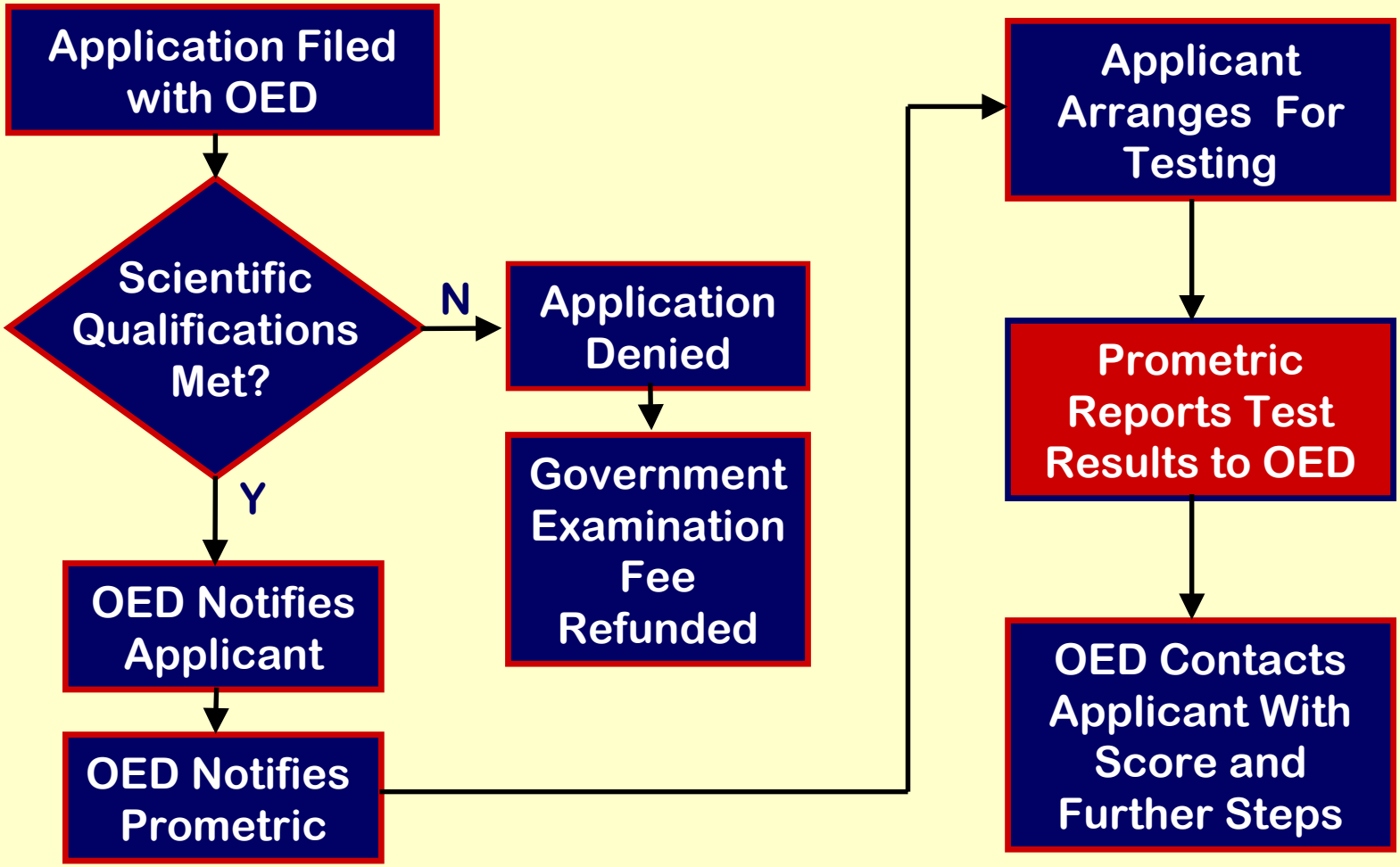
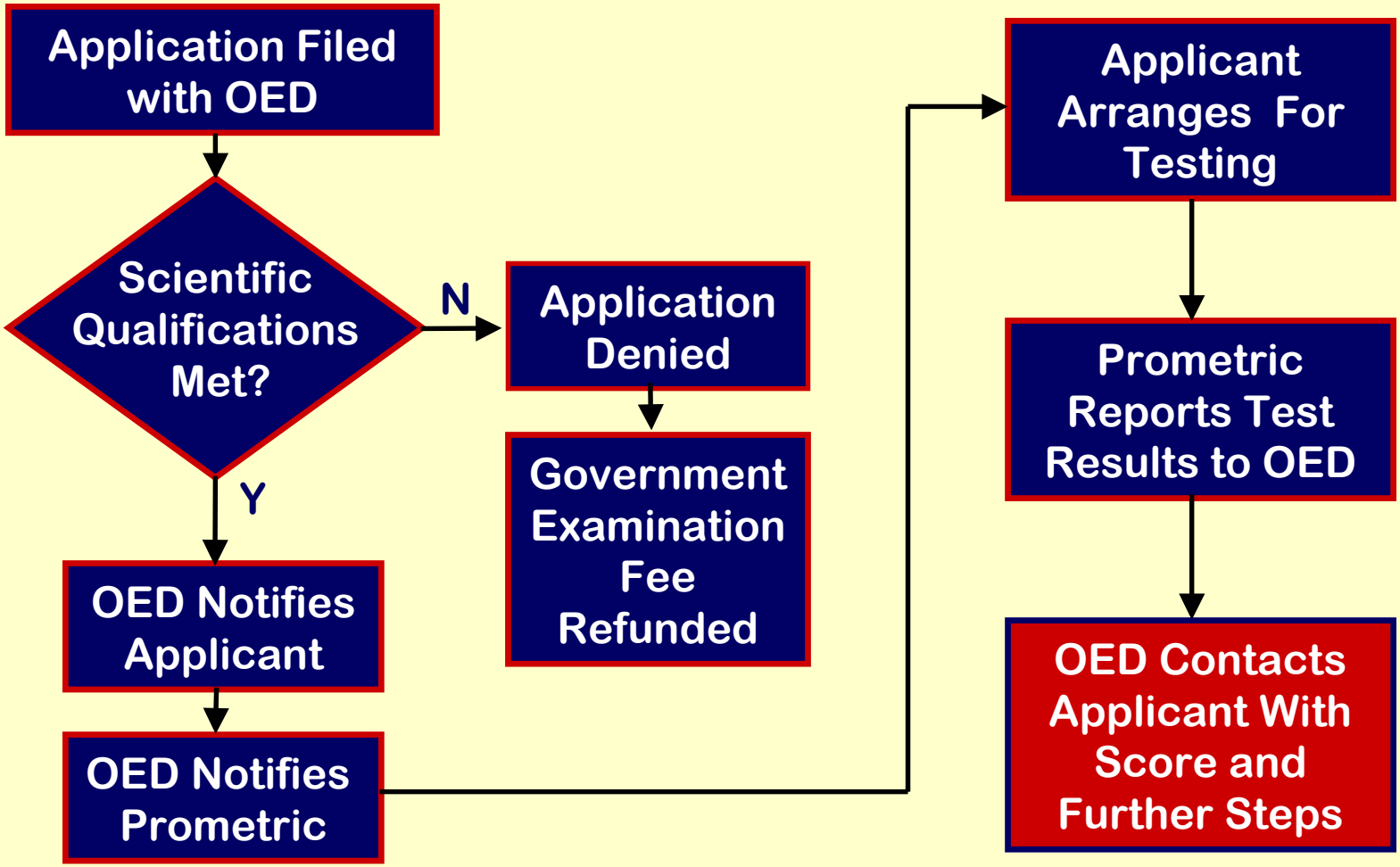
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