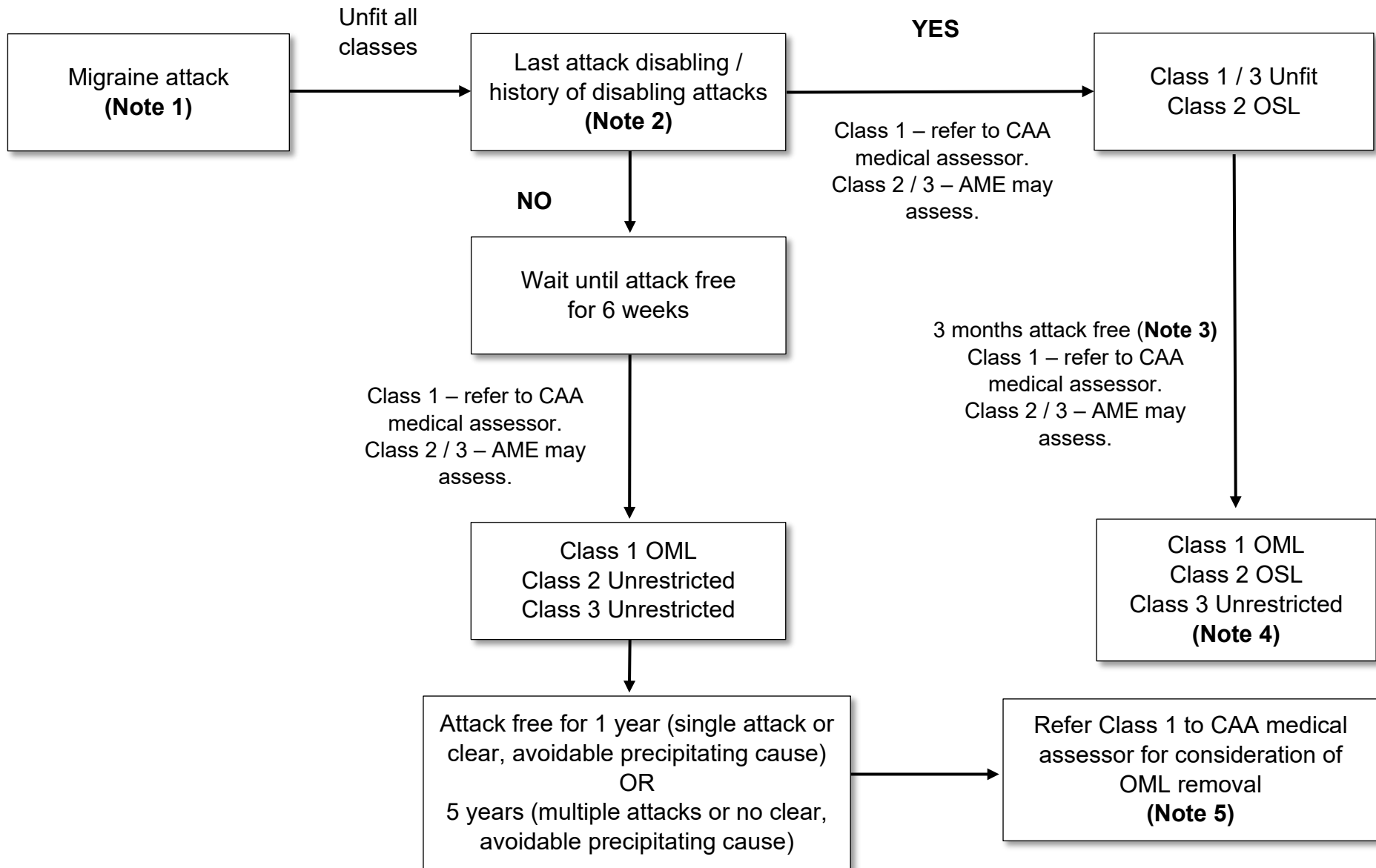# Class 1 / 2 / 3 Certification following migraine

This flow chart sets out the medical certification process for pilots and air traffic controllers following a migraine attack.

Migraine attack
(Note 1)

→ Unfit all classes →

Last attack disabling / history of disabling attacks
(Note 2)

→ **YES** → Class 1 / 3 Unfit Class 2 OSL

Class 1 – refer to CAA medical assessor.
Class 2 / 3 – AME may assess.

NO ↓

Wait until attack free for 6 weeks

Class 1 – refer to CAA medical assessor.
Class 2 / 3 – AME may assess.

↓

Class 1 OML
Class 2 Unrestricted
Class 3 Unrestricted

↓

Attack free for 1 year (single attack or clear, avoidable precipitating cause)
OR
5 years (multiple attacks or no clear, avoidable precipitating cause)

→

3 months attack free (**Note 3**)
Class 1 – refer to CAA medical assessor.
Class 2 / 3 – AME may assess.

↓

Class 1 OML
Class 2 OSL
Class 3 Unrestricted
(Note 4)

Refer Class 1 to CAA medical assessor for consideration of OML removal
(Note 5)

Medical certification for pilots and air traffic controllers following migraine

First declaration or new diagnosis

Note 1**:** Initial Class 1 / 3 or new diagnosis will require a [migraine report](#) from a neurologist. The diagnosis will be based on history, and the history taken by the first doctor to see the applicant is likely to be the most important. Consider obtaining a copy of relevant GP records to corroborate information provided.

Disabling attacks

Note 2: Significant / disabling features for aeromedical consideration are aura (especially visual symptoms, dysphasia, impaired motor function), rapid or unexpected onset, and the impact on activities at the time of the attack.

Return to fitness

Note 3: A return to fitness may be considered at 3 months but the length of time unfit may be extended by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) based on individual circumstances or individual pattern of previous attacks if deemed appropriate.

Note 4: Class 1 – refer to CAA Medical Department. An operational multi-pilot limitation (OML) is usually required for 10 years but may be longer depending on the individual history.

Class 2 – Aeromedical examiner (AME) may assess. The operational safety pilot limitation (OSL) may be removed by the AME 6 months after the last episode.

Class 3 – AME may assess. Complex cases can be discussed with the CAA Medical Department.

Class 1 OML

Note 5: An OML may be required for significantly longer periods depending on the individual history.

Medication

Prophylaxis to prevent attacks – new medication is improving migraine control and prophylactic medication is assessed on a case by case basis. Medications used in an acute attack (for example, triptans, metoclopramide) are disqualifying for flight on the basis that the requirement to administer them represents an attack and will require an unfit period.