Structural Presentation of the WDMOC

The conceptual model for the WDMOC is comprised of 9 different structural elements, each of which describes a different function within the model's code:

- **Origin Node:** This is where all entities within the model begin
- **Entity Paths:** These describe how entities may move between different elements. Dotted-line paths describe movement that happens across model components.
- **Decision Nodes:** A process where one of multiple potential paths are possible for a given entity. The code samples an underlying probability of each path occurring, and compares that sampled value to a randomly-generated value from a uniform distribution to determine which one occurs.
- **Characteristic Nodes:** A point at which an entity is assigned a new characteristic – a treatment flag (e.g., surgery only/surgery + RT/other/etc.), a demographic value (e.g., Male/Female, Ever/Never Smoker, etc.), or other information that governs its movement through subsequent parts of the model.
- **Resource Nodes:** Similar to characteristic nodes, these are points at which entity resource utilization is applied (e.g., a medical appointment, a treatment, a health service, etc.).
- **Temporal Nodes:** Describes the passage of time between model events. An entity 'waits' for a number of days before moving to the next node.
- **Destination Nodes:** These describe an entity moving across different model components. They correspond to the dotted-line entity paths.
- **Terminal Nodes:** A point at which an entity's route through the model ends. Within the WDMOC, the terminal nodes signify death either from oral cancer or from another cause.
- **Subroutines:** For simplicity's sake, some complex groups of processes that lie along multiple potential paths are summarized as a subroutine.

Figure A4.3.1 – Examples of Structural Elements