4. Parameter Passing

By default, data items are not shared between guideline and sub-guideline. The reason for this is that guidelines and sub-guideline can be relatively independent of each other and may not be created by the same authors. Each sub-guideline has a data-items list that lists all the data items that it uses.

Sub-guideline sometimes may require some data from the calling guideline. Such needs should be explicitly declared in the form of a parameters-passed list. For each parameter in the list, the permitted passing direction (IN, OUT, IN/OUT). IN means that the parameter value may be read but not written. OUT means that parameter value may set, but cannot acquire values from outside the sub-guideline. IN/OUT means that the parameter value may be both read from the outside, and reset.

Referencing a sub-guideline transfers control from one guideline to another.

The figures below show an example of a main guideline (treatment of cough) that passes parameters in and out to a sub-guideline called "cessation of smoking/ACEI.
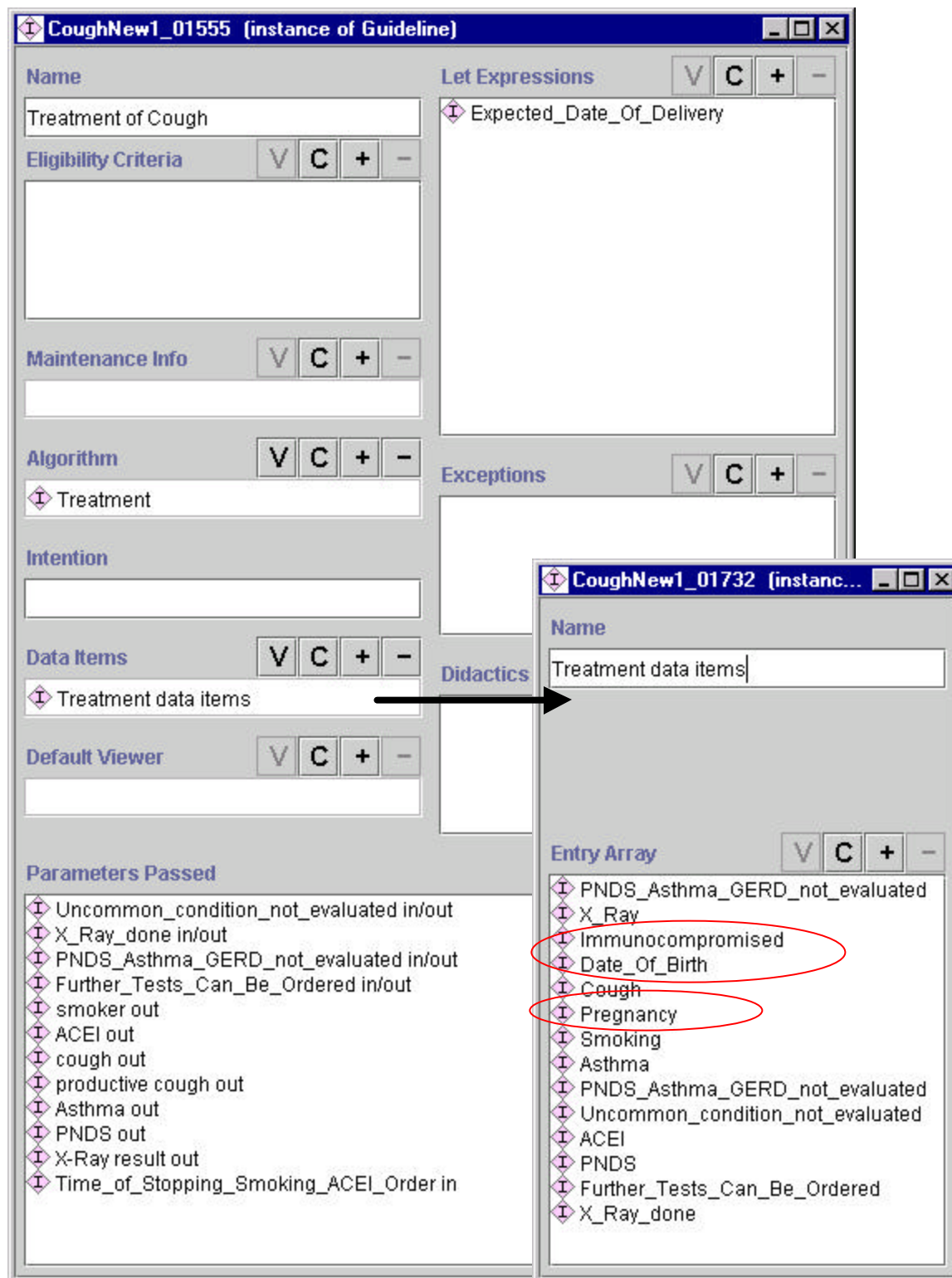
Figure 16. The "treatment of cough" guideline and the lists of data items that it uses and parameter that it passes/are passed to it by other guidelines.
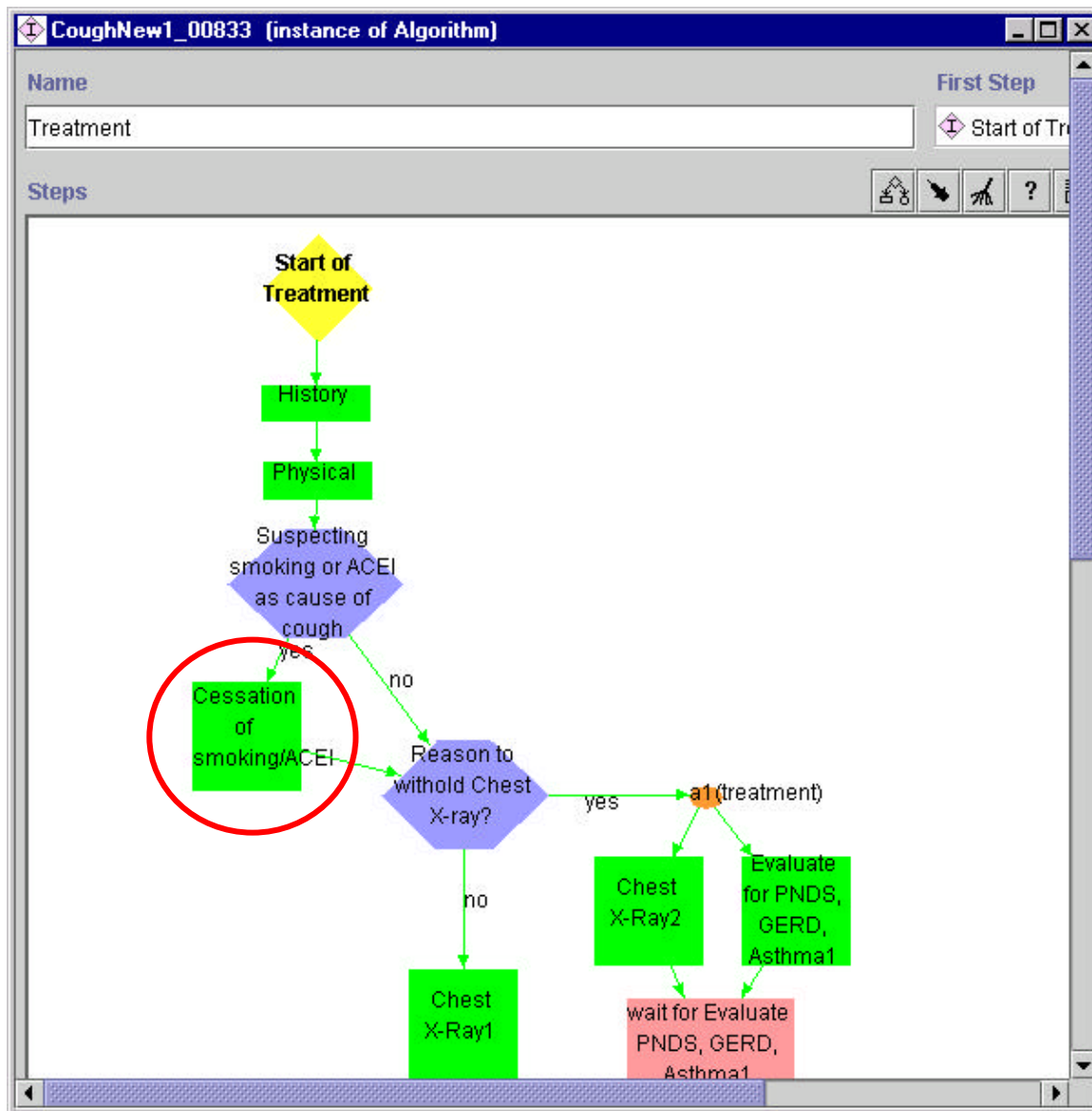
Figure 17. The treatment of cough algorithm that calls a sub-guideline called "cessation of smoking/ACEI"
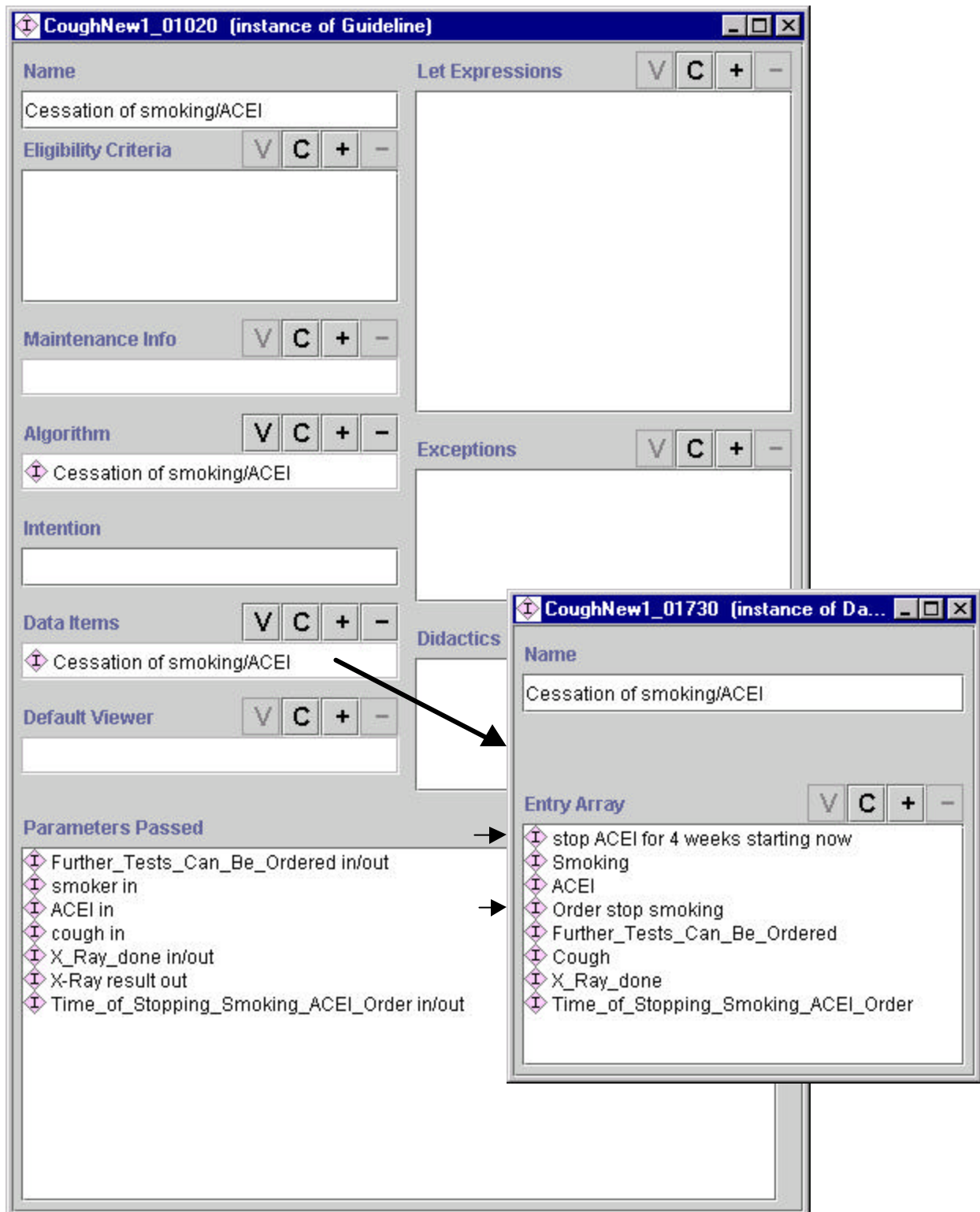
Figure 18. The "cessation of smoking/ACEI" guideline and the lists of data items that it uses and parameter that it passes/are passed to it by the treatment of cough guideline.