

The Canadian E.D. Triage and Acuity Scale

Patients should have an
INITIAL TRIAGE ASSESSMENT WITHIN 10 MINUTES*
of arrival



TRIAGE LEVEL I - RESUSCITATION

Time to NURSE
Assessment
IMMEDIATE*



Time to PHYSICIAN
Assessment
IMMEDIATE*

| USUAL PRESENTATION | SENTINEL DIAGNOSIS |
|---|---|
| Code / Arrest | Traumatic Shock |
| Major Trauma | Pneumothorax - Traumatic / Tension |
| Shock States | Facial Burns with Airway Compromise |
| Near Death Asthma | Severe Burns > 30% TBS |
| Severe Respiratory Distress | Overdose with Hypotension / Unconscious |
| Altered Mental State (unconscious, delirious) | AAA |
| Seizures | AMI with Complications / CHF / Low BP |
| | Status Asthmaticus |
| | Head Injury - Major / Unconscious |
| | Status Epilepticus |

TRIAGE LEVEL II - EMERGENT

Time to NURSE
Assessment
IMMEDIATE*



Time to PHYSICIAN
Assessment
15 MINUTES*

| USUAL PRESENTATION | SENTINEL DIAGNOSIS |
|--|--|
| Head Injury (Risk Features ± Altered Mental State) | Head Injury |
| Severe Trauma | Trauma, Multiple Sites, Multiple Rib Fracture, Neck Injury / Spinal Cord |
| Altered Mental State (lethargic, drowsy, agitated) | Alkaline / Caustic Occular Burns |
| Chemical Exposure - Eyes | Anaphylaxis |
| Allergic Reaction (Severe) | AMI, Unstable Angina, CHF, Chest Pain NOS, Gastroesophageal Reflux |
| Chest Pain • Visceral, Non-Traumatic | Unspecified Drug / Medicinal Overdose, "d.t.'s" |
| • ± Associated Symptoms | AAA, Appendicitis, Cholecystitis |
| Overdose (conscious), Drug Withdrawal | Gastrointestinal Bleed, Hypotension |
| ABD Pain (Age >50) with Visceral Symptoms | CVA |
| Back Pain (Non Trauma, Not MSK) | Severe Asthma |
| GI Bleed with Abnormal Vital Signs | COPD, Croup |
| CVA with Major Deficit | Spontaneous Abortion |
| Asthma Severe (PEFR <40%) | Ectopic Pregnancy / Rupture |
| Moderate / Severe Dyspnea / Difficulty Breathing | |
| Vaginal Bleeding • Acute, Pain scale >5 | |
| • ± Abnormal Vital Signs | |
| Vomiting and/or diarrhea (with suspicion of dehydration) | |
| Signs of serious infection (purpuric rash, toxic) | |
| Chemotherapy or immunocompromised | |
| Fever (age ≤ 3 months) Temp ≥ 38.0 (rectal) | Epiglottitis, Meningitis, Sepsis |
| Acute Psychotic Episode / Extreme Agitation | Acute Psychotic Episode / Agitation |
| Diabetes: Hypoglycemia, Hyperglycemia | Hypoglycemia, Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Hyperglycemia |
| Headache (Pain Scale 8 - 10/10) | Migraine |
| Pain Scale 8-10 (CVA, Back, Eye) | Renal Colic, LBP / Strain (Disc), Keratitis, Iritis |
| Sexual Assault | |
| Neonate (≤ 7 days old) | |

TRIAGE LEVEL III - URGENT

Time to NURSE
Assessment
30 MINUTES*



Time to PHYSICIAN
Assessment
30 MINUTES*

| USUAL PRESENTATION | SENTINEL DIAGNOSIS |
|---|---|
| Head Injury, Alert, Vomiting | Head Injury |
| Moderate Trauma | Anterior Dislocated Shoulder, Tibia / Fibula Fracture, Bimalleolar, Trimalleolar Ankle Fracture |
| Abuse / Neglect / Assault | |
| Vomiting and/or diarrhea (≤ 2 years) | |
| Dialysis problems | |
| Signs of Infection | Pyelonephritis |
| Mild / Moderate Asthma (PEFR > 40%) | Asthma without Status / COPD |
| Mild / Moderate Dyspnea | Bronchiolitis / Croup, Pneumonia |
| Chest Pain • No Visceral Symptoms (Sharp/MSK) | Chest Pain NOS (MSK, GI, Resp) |
| • No Previous Heart Disease | |
| GI Bleed with Normal Vital Signs | GI Bleed, No complications |
| Vaginal Bleeding Acute, Normal Vital Signs | Spontaneous Abortion |
| Seizure, Alert on Arrival | Seizure |
| Acute Psychosis ± Suicidal Ideation | Acute Psychosis ± Suicidal Ideation |
| Pain Scale 8 - 10 / 10 with minor injuries | |
| Pain Scale 4 - 7 / 10 (Headache, CVA, Back) | Migraine, Renal Colic, LBP / Strain (Disc) |

TRIAGE LEVEL IV - LESS URGENT

Time to NURSE
Assessment
60 MINUTES*



Time to PHYSICIAN
Assessment
60 MINUTES*

| USUAL PRESENTATION | SENTINEL DIAGNOSIS |
|---|---|
| Head Injury, Alert, No Vomiting | Head Injury, Alert, No Vomiting |
| Minor Trauma | Colles Fracture, Ankle Sprain |
| ABD Pain (Acute) | Appendicitis, Cholecystitis |
| Earache | Otitis Media / Otitis Externa |
| Chest Pain, Minor Trauma or MSK, No Distress | Chest Pain NOS (MSK, GI, Resp), Gastroesophageal Reflux |
| Vomiting and diarrhea (>2 years/no dehydration) | |
| Suicidal Ideation / Depression | Suicidal Ideation / Depression |
| Allergic Reaction (Minor) | Urticaria |
| Corneal Foreign Body | Corneal Foreign Body |
| Back Pain (Chronic) | LBP / Strain |
| URI Symptoms | URI |
| Pain Scale 4 - 7 | |
| Headache (Non Migraine / Not Sudden) | |

TRIAGE LEVEL V - NON URGENT

Time to NURSE
Assessment
120 MINUTES*



Time to PHYSICIAN
Assessment
120 MINUTES*

| USUAL PRESENTATION | SENTINEL DIAGNOSIS |
|--|--|
| Minor Trauma, Not Necessarily Acute | LBP / Strain |
| Sore Throat, No Resp Symptoms | URI |
| Diarrhea alone (no dehydration) | Gastroenteritis |
| Vomiting alone normal mental status (no dehydration) | Vomiting |
| Menses | Disorders of Menstruation |
| Minor Symptoms | Dressing Changes |
| ABD Pain (Chronic) | Cast Changes |
| Psychiatric complaints | Constipation |
| Pain Scale < 4 | Symptoms / Neurotic, Personality and Nonpsychotic Mental Disorders |
| | Unspecified Superficial Laceration(s) |

* **TIMES TO ASSESSMENT** are operating objectives, not established standards of care. Facilities without onsite physician coverage may meet assessment objectives using delegated protocols and remote communication.

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