

Adult Triage Criteria

(Adapted from the Canadian ED Triage and Acuity Scale)

<p>LEVEL I: RESUSCITATION</p> <p>Conditions that are life or limb threatening (or with imminent risk of deterioration) needing immediate aggressive intervention.</p> <p>Time to doctor: IMMEDIATE</p> <p>Usual presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiac and/or pulmonary arrest Major trauma Shock states Unconscious patients Severe respiratory distress Status epilepticus Acute coronary syndromes/ chest pain CVA / stroke DKA/ HHS Shock states (Trauma haemorrhagic / septic shock) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BP <50/60 Temp <35°C or >39°C PRF <50bpm or >100bpm RR <10bpm or >24bpm Hypertensive Emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BP >160/110mmHg with blurred vision / vomiting / CVA / confusion GI bleed Severe asthmatic attack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPO₂ <90% Single word speech Confusion Silent chest Deranged blood glucose levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <3mmol/L or >18mmol/L with confusion / seizures / disphoria Pregnancy related complications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting fetal parts Prolapsed cord Vaginal bleeding (esp. 3rd trimester except shock) Absent fetal movements Eclampsia Severe head injury (GCS: 3-4/15) Drug / substance abuse / intoxication with haemodynamic instability 	<p>TRIAGE I RESUSCITATION</p> <p>0</p> <p>IMMEDIATE</p>
<p>LEVEL II: EMERGENT</p> <p>Conditions that are potential threat to life, function or limb, requiring rapid medical intervention.</p> <p>Time to doctor < 15min</p> <p>Usual presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Altered mental state Head injury (mild / moderate with GCS of 9-15) Neonates Eye pain/ injuries Drug and/or substance overdose / intoxication / withdrawal with stable vitals Asthma (moderate) Anaphylaxis Heavy vaginal bleeding/acute pelvic or lower abdominal pain Septic/pneumonia Severe vomiting and/or diarrhoea (haemodynamically unstable) Acute psychosis / extreme agitation Severe abdominal / groin pain / acute abdomen Severe hypertension or hypotension (BP > 180/110 mmHg or < 90/60 mmHg) Abuse / neglect / assault (physical / sexual) Patients on chemotherapy Acute pain - severe (pain score 8-10/10) Seizure disorder 	<p>TRIAGE II EMERGENT</p> <p>15</p> <p>MINUTES</p>
<p>LEVEL III: URGENT</p> <p>Conditions could potentially progress to a serious problem requiring emergency intervention. May be associated with significant discomfort or affecting ability to function at work or activities of daily living.</p> <p>Time to doctor < 30min</p> <p>Usual presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asthma, mild Acute pain - moderate (pain score 4-7/10) Vomiting or diarrhoea with dehydration Dialysis (or transplantation patients) Other chronic - associated conditions e.g. neuropathy, nephropathy, retinopathy. 	<p>TRIAGE III URGENT</p> <p>30</p> <p>MINUTES</p>
<p>LEVEL IV: LESS URGENT</p> <p>Conditions could potentially progress to a serious problem requiring emergency intervention. May be associated with significant discomfort or affecting ability to function at work or activities of daily living.</p> <p>Time to doctor a 1 hour</p> <p>Usual presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minor trauma with soft tissue injuries Headache (pain score 0-3/10) Ear ache Back pain, chronic URTI symptoms with fever Vomiting and/or diarrhoea with no signs of dehydration Acute pain - mild (pain score 0-3/10) 	<p>TRIAGE IV LESS URGENT</p> <p>1</p> <p>HOUR</p>
<p>LEVEL V: NOT URGENT</p> <p>Problem with or without evidence of deterioration.</p> <p>Time to doctor < 2 hours</p> <p>Usual Presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sore Throat/URTI without fever Abdominal pain without vomiting Diarrhoea or vomiting alone without dehydration 	<p>TRIAGE V NOT URGENT</p> <p>2</p> <p>HOURS</p>

