ED 101

Medical Center

January 2013

Director, Emergency

Services

April 2011

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| Subject:**Triage of Patients**CoreGeneral  | Section:EmergencyDepartment | Policy Number: | Page:1 of 6 |
| Application: | Date of Issue: |
| Contact Person: | Supersedes: |
| Recommended:Director, Emergency Services | Approved:Medical Director, Emergency ServicesVice President |
| Review:Initial/Date |  |  |  |  |  |

**PURPOSE:** To facilitate the appropriate initial prioritization and intervention for patients who present to the ED.

**POLICY**: All patients who present to the ED for care will be triaged.

**PROCEDURE**: **Initial Triage** is performed on arrival, using the Pediatric

Assessment Triangle

**General appearance**

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**breathing**

**Circulation**

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Based on the findings of Initial Triage and using the triage chart below, the

Initial Triage score is documented in the patient record.



**Nurse Triage Assessment-** The Nurse Triage assessment is performed using the Emergency

Severity Index.

ESI Triage Algorithm

Requires immediate A Life-saving intervention?

no

High risk situation? B

or confused/lethargic/disoriented or

yes

1

yes

C 2

How many different resources are needed?

None One Many

Danger Zone

5 4 Vitals?

Refer to Cook Children’s Vital Sign Policy

Consider

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3

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**Notes:**

**A. Immediate life-saving intervention required: airway, emergency medications, or other hemodynamic interventions (IV, supplemental O2, monitor, ECG or labs DO NOT count); and/or any of the following clinical conditions: intubated, apneic, pulseless, severe respiratory distress, SPO2<90, acute mental status changes, or unresponsive.**

**Unresponsiveness is defined as a patient that is either:**

**1. Nonverbal and not following commands (acutely); or**

**2. Requires noxious stimulus (P or U on AVPU scale).**

**B. High risk: is a patient you would put in your last bed.**

**Severe pain/distress is determined by clinical observation and/or patient rating of greater than or equal to 7 out of 0-10 pain scale**

**C. Resources; Count the number of different types of resources, not the individual tests or x-rays (examples: CBC, electrolytes and coags equals one resource; CBC plus chest x-ray equals two resources).**

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| **Resources** | **Not Resources** |
|  **Labs (blood, urine)** **ECG, x-rays** **CT, MRI, Ultrasound** |  **History & physical (including pelvic)** **Point-of-care-testing** |
|  **IV fluids (hydration)** |  **Saline or heplock** |
|  **IV or IM or nebulized medications** |  **PO medications** **Tetanus immunization** **Prescription refills** |
|  **Specialty consultation** |  **Phone call to PCP** |
|  **Simple procedure = 1****(lac repair, Foley cath)** **Complex procedure = 2 (conscious sedation)** |  **Simple wound care****(dressings, recheck)** **Crutches, splints, slings** |

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**D. Danger Zone Vital Signs**

**Consider up-triage to ESI 2 if any vital sign criterion is exceeded**

**Pediatric Fever Considerations**

**1 to 60 days of age: assign at least ESI 2 if temp is greater than or equal to**

**38.0 C (100.4F)**

**3 months to 3 years of age: consider assigning ESI 3 if: temp>39.0C (102.2F), or incomplete immunizations, or no obvious source of fever**

**Nurse Triage Level**

The findings of the nurse triage assessment are used to determine the Triage Level. The Triage Level is documented in the patient record. Utilizing the Triage Level and knowledge of the current patient flow in the Emergency Department (ED), the ED Charge Nurse will assist with determining the priority of patients.

Patients who present with a chief complaint of sexual or physical abuse, maltreatment, or neglect will be triaged. These patients will be directed as follows:

Level 1 as above

Level 2 as above

Levels 3, 4, & 5- patient will be directed to CARE Team during clinic hours. When a Level 3,

4, or 5 patient presents with a complaint of sexual abuse and the clinic is closed, the CARE Team on-call will be notified and will determine the timing of the CARE Team evaluation.

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References:

Emergency Nurses Association. (2020). Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course, provider manual, 5th edition.

Emergency Nurses Association. (2020). Emergency Severity Index (ESI), A Triage Tool for Emergency Department Care, Implementation Handbook Version