## True Triage

### Cardiac
- Cardiac arrest (non-traumatic)
- Cardiac arrest (traumatic)
- Chest pain (cardiac features)
- Chest pain (non-cardiac features)
- Palpitations/ Irregular heartbeat
- Hypertension
- General weakness
- Syncope/ pre-syncope
- Oedema, generalised
- Bilateral leg swelling/ oedema
- Cool pulseless limb
- Unilateral hot red limb

### Gastrointestinal
- Abdominal pain
- Anorexia
- Constipation
- Diarrhoea
- Foreign body - upper GI
- Foreign body - lower GI
- Groin pain/ mass
- Vomiting and/or nausea
- Rectal/ perineal pain
- Vomiting blood
- Blood in stool/ melena
- Jaundice
- Hiccoughs
- Abdominal mass/ distension
- Anal/ rectal trauma
- Feeding difficulty in newborn
- Neonatal jaundice

### Orthopaedic
- Back pain
- Traumatic back/ spine injury
- Amputation
- Upper limb pain
- Lower limb pain
- Upper limb injury
- Lower limb injury
- Joint swelling
- Paediatric gait disorder/ pain
- Cast check

### Trauma
- Major trauma - penetrating
- Major trauma - blunt
- Isolated chest trauma - penetrating
- Isolated chest trauma - blunt
- Isolated abdo trauma - penetrating
- Isolated abdo trauma - blunt

### Skin
- Bite
- Sting
- Abrasion
- Laceration/ puncture
- Burn
- Blood/ body fluid exposure
- Pruritis
- Rash
- Localised swelling/ redness
- Breast redness/ tenderness
- Lumps/ bumps/ callouses
- Rule out infection
- Cyanosis
- Spontaneous bruising
- Foreign body - skin
- Wound check/ dressing change
- Removal staples/ sutures

### Eye
- Chemical exposure - eye
- Foreign body - eye
- Visual disturbance
- Eye pain
- Red eye, discharge
- Photophobia
- Diplopia - double vision
- Periorbital swelling
- Eye trauma
- Eye review

### ENT - Ears
- Earache
- Foreign body-ear
- Loss of hearing
- Tinnitus
- Discharge - ear
- Ear injury

### ENT - Nose
- Nosebleed
- Nose congestion/ hayfever
- Foreign body-nose
- URTI
- Nasal trauma

### ENT - Throat
- Dental/ gum problems
- Facial trauma
- Sore throat
- Neck swelling/ pain
- Neck trauma
- Difficulty swallowing/ dysphagia
- Facial pain (not trauma or dental)

### Substance misuse
- Substance misuse/ intoxication
- Overdose ingestion
- Substance withdrawal

### Mental health & psychological
- Depression/ suicidal/ DSH
- Anxiety/ situational crisis
- Hallucinations/ delusions
- Insomnia
- Violent/ homicidal behaviour
- Social problem
- Bizarre behaviour
- Concern for patient's welfare
- Paediatric disruptive behaviour

### Environmental
- Frostbite/ cold injury
- Noxious inhalation
- Electrical injury
- Chemical exposure
- Hypothermia
- Near drowning

### General/ minor
- Exposure to comm disease
- Fever
- Hyperglycaemia
- Hypoglycaemia
- Direct referral for consultation
- Imaging tests
- Medical device problem
- Prescription/ medication request
- Ring removal
- Abnormal lab tests
- Pallor/ Anaemia
- Post-op complications
- Inconsolable crying in infants
- Congenital problems (child)
- Minor complaint (other)

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adapted from the Canadian Triage Scale
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate life threat</th>
<th>Imminent life threat</th>
<th>Potential life threat, limb threat</th>
<th>Potential limb threat</th>
<th>No threat to life or limb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac arrest</td>
<td>Severe stridor or drooling</td>
<td>Severe hypertension</td>
<td>Severe chest pain - likely cardiac</td>
<td>Minor symptoms of existing stable illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory arrest</td>
<td>Severe respiratory distress</td>
<td>Moderately severe blood loss</td>
<td>Severe abdominal pain <em>without</em> high risk features</td>
<td>Minor symptoms of low-risk conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate risk to airway</td>
<td>Circulatory compromise</td>
<td>Moderate shortness of breath</td>
<td>Seizure (now GCS&gt;13)</td>
<td>Minor wounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR&lt;10/min</td>
<td>- clammy or mottled skin</td>
<td>O₂ Sat 90 – 95%</td>
<td>Chest injury without LOC</td>
<td>- small abrasions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme respiratory distress</td>
<td>- HR &lt; 50 or &gt;150 (adult)</td>
<td>Blood glucose &gt;16 mmol/l</td>
<td>Difficulty swallowing</td>
<td>- minor lacerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP&lt; 80 (adult) or severely shocked child/infant</td>
<td>- BP &lt; 100</td>
<td>Seizure (now GCS&gt;13)</td>
<td>[ all without resp distress ]</td>
<td>(not requiring Tx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unresponsive or responds to pain only (GCS &lt; 9)</td>
<td>- severe blood loss</td>
<td>Any fever if immunosuppressed</td>
<td>Minor head injury, no LOC</td>
<td>Severe trauma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing/prolonged seizure</td>
<td>Chest pain - likely cardiac</td>
<td>e.g. oncology patient, steroid Rx</td>
<td>Vomiting or diarrhoea without dehydration</td>
<td>- major fracture/ amputation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous overdose and unresponsive or hypoventilation</td>
<td>Blood glucose &lt; 3 mmol/l</td>
<td>Head injury with LOC- now alert</td>
<td>Eye prob/FB normal vision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major trauma requiring trauma team activation</td>
<td>Drowsy, GCS &lt; 13 any cause</td>
<td>Chest pain likely non-cardiac</td>
<td>Minor limb trauma requiring investigation/ treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma with shock or GCS&lt;13</td>
<td>Anaphylaxis (no airway threat)</td>
<td>Abdominal pain <em>without</em> high risk features</td>
<td>- sprained ankle</td>
<td>- minor fracture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
<td>Acute hemiparesis/dysphasia</td>
<td>- mod severe or patient age &gt;65 years</td>
<td>- possible fracture</td>
<td>- uncomplicated laceration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Immediate threat of dangerous violence</td>
<td>Fever with signs of lethargy</td>
<td>Trauma - high-risk history</td>
<td>- uncomplicated laceration</td>
<td>Non-specific abdominal pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
<td>Suspected meningococcaemia</td>
<td>Moderate limb injury</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tight cast, no neurovascular impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acid or alkali splash to eye</td>
<td>- deformity, severe laceration, crushed limb, altered sensation, acutely absent pulse, pain on passive stretch</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swollen “hot” joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
<td>Severe trauma</td>
<td>Stable neonate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- major fracture/ amputation</td>
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<td>Child at risk of abuse/suspected non-accidental injury</td>
<td></td>
<td>- known patient with chronic symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant sedative or toxic ingestion e.g. TCA or envenomation</td>
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<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Social crisis, clinically well patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe pain suggesting PE, AAA or ectopic pregnancy</td>
<td>Severe pain suggesting PE, AAA or ectopic pregnancy</td>
<td>- very distressed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
<td>Behavioural / psychiatric</td>
<td>ongoing risk of self-harm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- violent or aggressive</td>
<td>- violent or aggressive</td>
<td>psychotic/ thought disordered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- active threat to self or others</td>
<td>- active threat to self or others</td>
<td>agitated / withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- requires or has required restraint</td>
<td>- requires or has required restraint</td>
<td>potentially aggressive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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