

Outline

“04.04 Triage”

Overview

1. Triage
 1. What is triage?
 2. Situations for triage

Nursing Points

General

1. What is triage?
 - a. Categorization system that establishes severity
 - b. Method of Prioritization
2. ESI Emergency Triage Algorithm
 - a. ESI is the algorithm used by emergency rooms to triage
 - i. Does the situation require a life-saving, immediate intervention?
 - ii. Is the situation high risk? Is the patient lethargic or confused? Is the patient in severe distress or pain?
 - iii. Is the patient’s vital signs in a dangerous range?
 - iv. How many additional resources are needed?
 1. If 1 or more additional resources are needed, it changes the algorithm.
 - b. See the link attached to this lesson for more information
3. Situations
 - a. Emergency Department
 - i. Emergent
 1. Needs immediate treatment
 2. Right now
 3. Ex: Trauma, Stroke, MI, Head injuries

ii. Urgent

1. Needs to be seen in 1-2 hours
2. Ex: Fever, HTN, Fractures

iii. Non Urgent

1. Can wait
2. Stable Patients
3. Ex: Sprains, minor injuries, cold/virus

b. Disasters

i. Survivable Injuries

1. Immediate threat of death
2. Stable Patients

ii. Non Survivable Injuries

1. Dead on arrival or actively dying with non-survivable injuries

Nursing Concepts

1. Prioritization
2. Clinical Judgment

Patient Education

1. Educate patients who are in the ER waiting room with stable illnesses or minor injuries that there are other patients that have life-threatening emergencies
 - a. Be compassionate
 - b. Be patient