

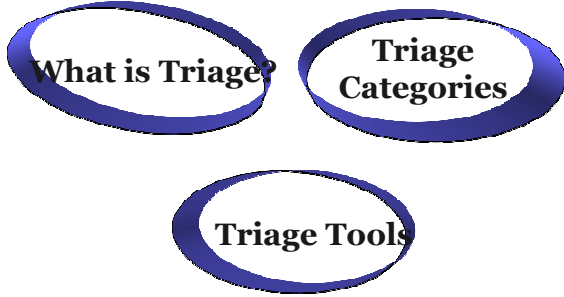
TRIAGE

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Triage




What is Triage? Triage Categories Triage Tools

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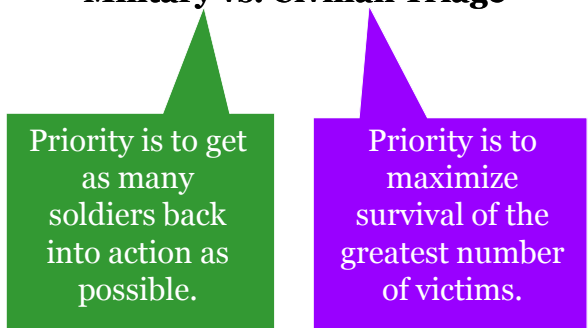
What is Triage?

- “Triage” is french for “to sort”
- Prioritizing patients into specific care categories
- Look at the urgency of need for medical care of individual patient
- Sorting based on limited data acquisition
- Must Look into available resources



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Military vs. Civilian Triage



Priority is to get as many soldiers back into action as possible.

Priority is to maximize survival of the greatest number of victims.

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Military vs. Civilian Triage

- **Military model**
Those with the least serious wounds may be the first treatment priority
- **Civilian model**
Those with the most serious but realistically salvageable injuries are treated first

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Military vs. Civilian Triage

In both models, **victims with clearly lethal injuries or those who are unlikely to survive** even with extensive resource application are treated as the **lowest priority**.

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Ethical Justification

“Utilitarian rule”: The greater good of the greater number rather than the particular good of the patient at hand. This rule is justified only because of the clear necessity of general public welfare in a crisis.

A. Jonsen and K. Edwards, “Resource Allocation” in *Ethics in Medicine*, Univ. of Washington School of Medicine, <http://eduserv.hscer.washington.edu/bioethics/topics/resall.html>

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Why Should Responders Care About Good Triage?

- Provides a way to draw organization out of chaos
- Helps to get care to those who need it and will benefit from it the most
- Helps in resource allocation
- Provides an objective framework for stressful and emotional decisions

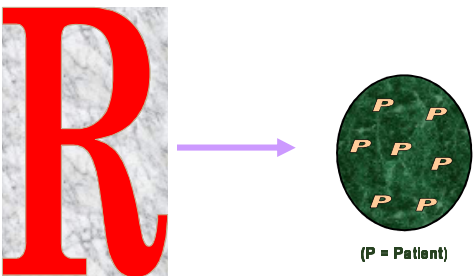
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Why are Resources Important in Triage?

- **Disaster** is commonly defined as an incident in which patient care needs overwhelm local response resources.
- Daily emergency care is not usually constrained by resource availability.

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Abundant resources relative to demand



Do the best for each individual

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Resources challenged



Do the best for each individual

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Resources overwhelmed



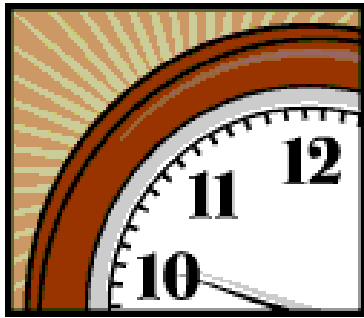
Do the greatest good for the greatest number

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Daily Emergencies
Do the best for each individual.


Mass Casualty Scenario
*Do the greatest good for the greatest number.
Maximize survival.*


Triage is a dynamic process and is usually done more than once.



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Primary Triage → 

Secondary Triage → 

Tertiary Triage → 

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Triage Categories



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TRIAGE Categories


- **Red:**
 - Life-threatening but treatable injuries requiring rapid medical attention
- **Yellow:**
 - Potentially serious injuries, but are stable enough to wait a short while for medical treatment
- **Green:**
 - Minor injuries that can wait for longer periods of time for treatment
- **Black:**
 - Dead or still with life signs but injuries are incompatible with survival in austere conditions
- **Blue:**
 - Non-Salvageable/ Expectant

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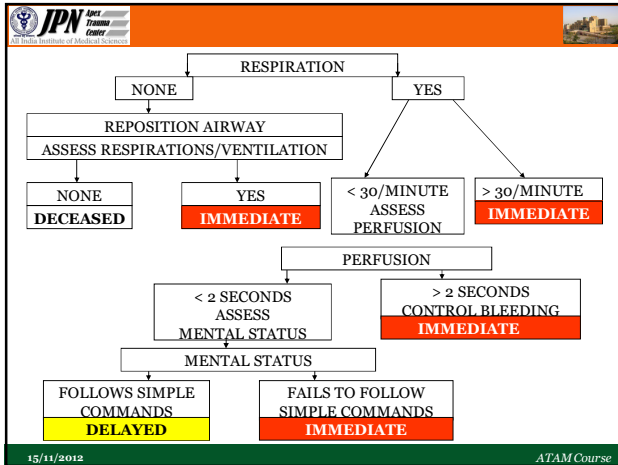
START Triage Method

Simple Triage and Rapid Transport

- Triage assessment based on three criteria
- RPM
 - Respiratory effort
 - Pulses / Perfusion
 - Mental status
- Uses the universally recognized triage categories



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Mnemonic

R	30
P	2
M	Can do

TRIAGE – Key Points

In order for MCI triage to work toward its goal, all victims must have equal importance at the time of primary triage. No patient group can receive special consideration other than that dictated by their physiology.

This includes children!

TRIAGE – Key Points

MCI triage will never be logistically, intellectually, or emotionally easy...

but we must be prepared to do it using the best of our knowledge and abilities.

THANK YOU