# EMERGENCY SEVERITY INDEX TRIAGE ALGORITHM (ESI)

**Level 1-Immediate Level II-Emergent Level III-Urgent Level IV-Semi-Urgent Level V-Non-Urgent**

**A-REQUIRES IMMEDIATE LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTION?** YES → **1**

NO ↓

**B-HIGH RISK SITUATION? (INCLUDES PSYCHIATRIC/SUBSTANCE ABUSE/SUICIDAL/HOMICIDAL/VIOLENT) OR CONFUSED/LETHARGIC/DISORIENTED? OR SEVERE PAIN/DISTRESS OR** YES → **2**

↓

**C-HOW MANY DIFFERENT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?**

| NONE | ONE | MANY |
|---|---|---|
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| **5** | **4** | **DANGER ZONE VITALS?** |

**DANGER ZONE VITAL SIGNS**

Consider uptriage to ESI 2 if any vital sign criterion is exceeded

**Pediatric Fever Considerations**

- 1day-28 days: assign ESI 2 if temp >38°C/100.4°F
- 1 mo-3mo: assign ESI 2 if temp >38°C/100.4°F
- 1 mo-3 yr: assign ESI 3 if temp >39°C/102.2°F, or incomplete immunizations, or no obvious source of fever

| AGE | HR | RR & SaO2 |
|---|---|---|
| <3 mo | >180 | >50/<92 % |
| 3mo-3yr | >160 | >40/<92 % |
| 3yr-8yr | >140 | >30/<92 % |
| >8yr | >100 | >20/<92 % |

NO ↓

**3**

YES → **CONSIDER UPTRIAGE TO 2**

**A. Immediate life-saving interventions required**: airway, emergency medications, or other hemodynamic interventions (IV, O2, ECG, labs DO NOT COUNT); and or any of the following clinical conditions: intubated, apneic, pulseless, severe respiratory distress, SaO2<90%, acute mental status changes, or unresponsive.
**Unresponsiveness:** 1. nonverbal and not following commands or 2. requires noxious stimulus **PU on AVPU scale: A=Patient Awake; V=Patient Responds to Verbal Stimuli; P=Patient**

**B. High Risk Situation:** is a patient you would put in your last open bed. Severe pain/distress is determined by clinical observation and/or patient rating of greater than or equal to 7 on 0-10 pain scale

## RESOURCES*

- Labs
- ECG
- X-rays
- CT, MRI, US
- IV fluids (hydration)
- IV or IM or nebulized meds
- Specialty Consultation
- Simple Procedure = 1 (laceration repair, foley)
- Complex Procedure = 2 (conscious sedation)

***NOT RESOURCES:** H&P (including pelvic), POC testing, IV heplock, PO meds, Tetanus, Prescription refills, call to PCP, simple wound care, crutches/splints/slings

**C. Resources:** Count the number of different types of resources, not the individual tests or x-rays (i.e., CBC, electrolytes, coags = 1 resource; CBC + Chest x-ray = 2 resources