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Triage: A Global Perspective

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Abstract

Triage is a process by which patients are assessed, classified, and sorted based on their presenting complaint and clinical urgency, providing assurance for timely access to emergency care. The goal is to get the right person to the right place, in the right amount of time, for the right reason, and within the context of resource availability. In many countries, a standardized triage system, underpinned through the use of guidelines, is used to provide clinicians with support and guidance. Triage is a globally adopted principle, and although triage guidelines are used in many countries, no single system has been internationally adopted. This paper discusses the importance of how triage process standardization improves patient care, resource management, and benchmarking at local, national, and international levels by applying 5 internationally recognized triage systems to fictional case studies. Evaluation of similarities and differences in severity scores, with a gap analysis, occurs. © 2023 Emergency Nurses Association

Author Keywords

Australasian Triage System; Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale; Emergency nursing; Malaysian Triage Scale; Patient safety, Manchester Triage System; Triage

Index Keywords

adult, article, benchmarking, emergency nursing, human, patient care, patient safety, patient triage, practice guideline, resource management, standardization, emergency health service, hospital emergency service; Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Service, Hospital, Humans, Triage

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