






Primary survey findings and triage categories

Criterion	 Category 1 Immediate	 Category 2 Emergency	 Category 3 Urgent	 Category 4 Semi-urgent	 Category 5 Non-urgent
Airway	Immediate risk to airway	Airway risk: severe stridor or drooling with distress	Patent	Patent	Patent
Breathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respiratory arrest ■ Respiratory rate <10/min ■ Extreme respiratory distress 	Severe respiratory distress	Moderate respiratory distress	No respiratory distress	No respiratory distress
Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cardiac arrest ■ BP <80 mmHg (adult) ■ Severely shocked child or infant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Circulatory compromise: clammy or mottled skin, poor perfusion ■ HR <50 or >150 (adult) ■ Hypotension with haemodynamic effects ■ Severe blood loss 	Moderately severe blood loss	Mild haemorrhage	No haemodynamic compromise
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GCS <9 ■ Ongoing or prolonged seizure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GCS 9-12 ■ BGL <3 mmol/L ■ Very severe pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GCS >12 ■ Seizure, now alert ■ Moderately severe pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Normal GCS ■ Moderate pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Normal GCS ■ Minimal or no pain
Environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fever with signs of lethargy ■ Febrile neutropenia 			

Considerations for specific groups

Some descriptors in this table are different for specific patient groups: see **Chapter 6: Pregnancy**, **Chapter 7: Paediatrics** and **Chapter 8: Older people**; see local guidelines for changes to vital sign parameters in these groups.