

Tertiary Triage in a Surge Environment

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Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, the participant will be able to:

- Describe Tertiary Triage
- Understand When Tertiary Triage is Appropriate
- List Considerations for Tertiary Triage

Surge

- Small surge 15%-20%
- Moderate surges occur regularly but timing not exact i.e. flu season
- Large surge typically associated with disaster and is infrequent with little or no warning
- Mega surge is $> 200\%$ demand and typically is caused by a lg scale natural disaster or act/s of terrorism

What is Tertiary Triage

- Triage that is necessary when a health care entity has an influx of patients that exceeds what they can normally handle without a higher level of medical staff triage
- Patients needing categorization beyond primary triage i.e. used when critical care or OR management is needed
- Can be needed in mass causality events, bioterrorism events and/or infectious disease events

Must Be

- Easy
- Not require lab testing
- Accurate
- Apply to patients with a wide variety of critical illnesses and injuries

Considerations

- Like other triage, sorting and prioritizing is key
- Also needed to manage resources
- Should be conducted by seasoned, pre-trained clinicians
- Best case is for senior surgeons to triage for mass casualty and OR needs and for intensivists to triage for other disasters with patients requiring critical care

Effective Triage

- Supported by strong systems and processes
- Goal is to preserve and protect
- Not needed if non-life threatening injury or illness present
- If few survive the event

In Summary

- Understand what surge and what surge capacity is and the levels of response needed
- Understand and be able to support all levels of triage needed for the many response levels that may be needed respective to the event
- Engage those responsible for response and triage in your organization so that they are well prepared for a seamless response



Questions



Thank You!