

Learning Objectives

- Articulate purpose and rationale for mass casualty triage
- Discuss elements of effective pre-hospital and hospital triage
- Describe challenges associated with mass casualty triage, including over-triage and under-triage
- Explain purpose and rationale for population-based triage
- Explain secondary and tertiary triage

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D	Detection	Multicasualty eventNeeds > resources
I	Incident command	Who is incident commander?
S	Safety and security	Considerations?
Α	Assess hazards	• Gunman?
S	Support	What is needed at scene? Community needs?
т	Triage and treatment	What should be done first?

Triage

- Priority based on needs, available resources, and situation
- Greatest good for greatest number



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Mass Casualty Triage



- Casualties greater than resources
- Infrastructure limitations
- Scene hazards
- Multiple responding agencies

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Triage Systems

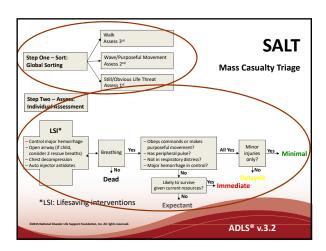
- Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START)
- JumpSTART [pediatric]
- Sacco Triage Method (STM)
- SALT Triage
- Care Flight
- Triage Sieve
- MASS Triage



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SALT Triage Complies with the Model Uniform Core Criteria S Sort A Assess L Lifesaving interventions T Treatment/transport



Continuity Basic documentation Casualty tag Secondary Triage Identifying most emergent needs within each category No good guidance use clinical judgment Transport is guided by triage category as well as resource availability CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR ASSOCIATION ASSO

Casualty Reassessment

- Triage is a dynamic process
 - Casualties change
 - Resources change
 - Situations change
- Error-tolerant system



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What if there was no scene?

- Population-based triage
 - Used to direct casualty and well-citizen behavior
- Example, during a major infectious disease outbreak
 - Tell sick individuals to stay home
 - Seek medical attention only if they have specific symptoms
 - Implement social distancing
 - · Cancel all mass gatherings
 - Cancel school and close some work sites

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Tertiary Triage

- Used to conserve medical resources and distribute scarce resources
- Most severe scenario
- Example
 - Too few ventilators for patients
 - Too few staff for more ventilators
 - Rationing of ventilators needed

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Tertiary Triage: Ethical Implications

- Limits patient autonomy
- Limits physician autonomy
- Doctor's obligation to patient or to group?
- Threat to doctor-patient relationship

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Tertiary Triage: Ethical Framework: Allocation in Mass Casualty Scenarios

(Powell Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedne

- Duty to Care
- Duty to Steward Resources
- Duty to Plan
- Transparency
- $\bullet Justice$

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• Clinician must care for individual patient • Autonomy not decisive factor • Palliative Care

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Duty to Steward Resources

- •Disaster = Scarcity
- Greatest Good for Greatest Number

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Duty to Plan

- Predictable emergency
- •Government's and health care system's obligation to healthcare professionals and community
- •Lack of planning creates vulnerability for frontline providers
- •Flawed plan versus no plan

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Transparency

- Public communication
- Disaster care different
- Patient preference does not determine withdrawal or withholding of care
- Objective criteria guide patients and professionals

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Justice

- •Objective clinical criteria
- Applied broadly and evenly
- •No differential access for special groups
- No discrimination based on age, diagnosis ethnicity, perceived quality of life, or ability to pay

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Measuring Clinical Status

- •SOFA criteria may be applied to ventilator triage
 - Non-proprietary
 - •Simple, reproducible
 - Evidentiary basis for estimating mortality
 - Points added based on objective measures of function in six key organs and systems: lungs, liver, brain, kidneys, blood clotting, and blood pressure

brain, kidneys, blood clotting, and blood pressure

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Summary

- Disaster triage focuses on doing the greatest good for greatest number
- Primary triage organizes casualties at a chaotic scene into 5 broad categories
- Secondary triage sorts patients within the primary triage categories
- Population based triage protects the community by directing them when and how to access resources while protecting the health of others.
- Tertiary triage prioritizes the use of scarce resources

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