

CHAPTER 9 MASS CASUALTY MANAGEMENT

Mass Casualty Incident:

- Anytime there are more Patients than Rescuers
- Any event resulting in a number of victims large enough to disrupt the normal course of emergency and health care services

Mass Casualty Management:

This basically means management of casualties where rescuers are less than the number of casualties.

Community Based Disaster Preparedness:

When a disaster strikes, there is usually a period of 48-72 hours when the communities have to fend for themselves. This is called Period of Isolation. A well prepared community will be able to clearly manage mass casualties and other needful in case of emergencies when help is on the way. This is the importance of having prepared communities.

Incident Command: First person on scene sends an Initial On Scene Report

- See as much of the scene as you can in 30 seconds
- Process what you see and hear
- THINK - Don't Panic
- Paint an accurate picture of the scene with your brief report
- Declare yourself the In Charge, where the In Charge Post will be and where responding units should report to.

Triage: Triage means categorization of casualties into various groups according to the condition of their injuries.

Aim of Triage: To achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of casualties in the shortest time.

Pearls of Triage:

- ❖ Rapidly and systematically evaluate and tag all victims
- ❖ Provide only minimal treatment
- ❖ Make independent decisions on each patient
- ❖ Do not forget the walking wounded
- ❖ Utilize 60 seconds per patient

START Triage: Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment.

Tools and techniques for triaging:

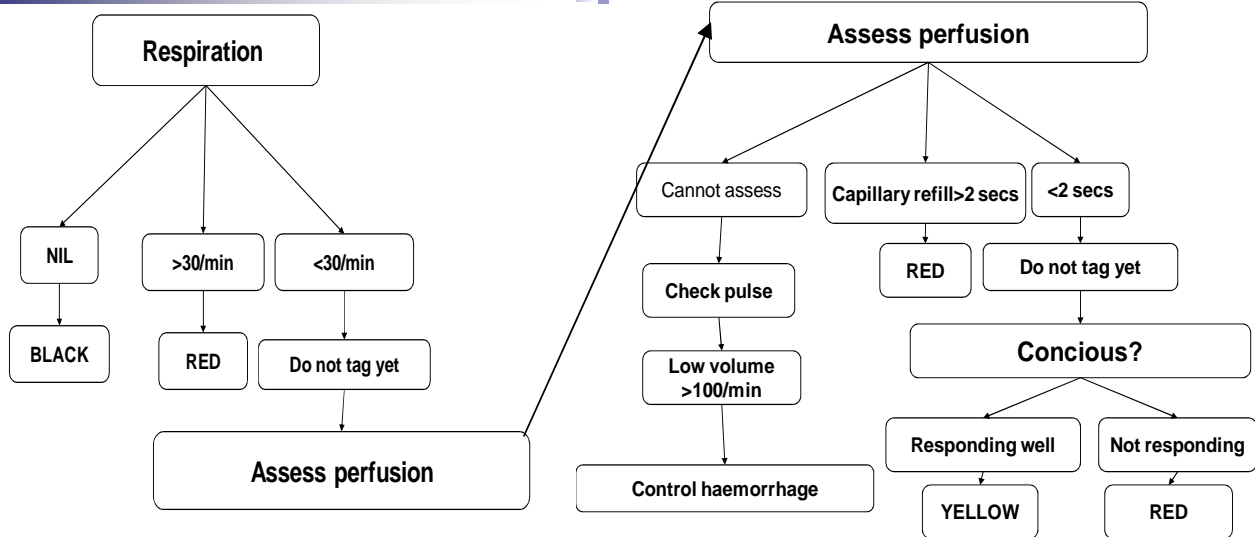
- **Respiration:** Normal respiration rate in adults is < 30/minute. However, in children this rate is 15-45/ minute. Respiration is measured by counting inspiration and expiration as one respiration.

- **Blood circulation:** The easiest method for assessing circulation is by conducting the capillary refill test. This is done by pressing fingertips for a second or two till it becomes pale. The pallor returns pink within 2 seconds in a normal individual. However this time could be delayed to more than 2 seconds in case of hemorrhage of various causes of improper circulation. Apart from this method, circulation could be assessed by checking the pulse. Normal pulse rate in an adult is 60-100 beats per minute. This could be higher in children. Radial, brachial, carotid and femoral pulses could be felt. Rhythm and volume of pulse could also be assessed.
- **Mental status:** This could be assessed by asking simple tasks like ‘Open your eyes’ or ‘squeeze my hand’ etc and see if they follow simple commands. If not, pain sensation could be elicited by pinching or pressing on the chest. Response could be subjective but should be noted.

Colours of Triage:

- RED IMMEDIATE
- YELLOW DELAYED
- GREEN AMBULATORY
- BLACK DECEASED

Steps for Triage:



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Mass casualty and Triage

- Definitions
- Mass casualty- on site and hospital based
- Triage
- Aims of triage
- Pearls of triage
- Tagging
- START triage techniques
- Tools for successful triage
- Assessing respiration, circulation and mental status

Trauma management-Orthopedic injuries and hemorrhage

- Trauma
- Different types of trauma
- Common orthopedic injuries and their management
- Transporting spinal injury case
- Splinting techniques
- Bandaging
- Hemorrhage –signs and symptoms of shock
- Tourniquet

Burn management

- Depth of burn
- Percentage of burn
- Severity of burn
- Types of burn
- Causes of burn
- Management of burn-first aid and hospital management
- Complications of burn
- Causes of death in burn

Unconsciousness

- Definition
- Causes
- First aid
- Orientation
- Fainting

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation

- Definition
- Airway, breathing and circulation
- Techniques of CPR

- Chest compressions
- Mouth to mouth
- Differences in adult and children

Emergency medical services

- Emergency phone numbers
- Hospital emergency plan
- Community and hospital linkages

Universal Precautions

- Definition
- Need for universal precaution
- Different precaution methods
- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis B and C