

# The Canadian Paediatric E.D. Triage and Acuity Scale

Patients should have an initial triage assessment within 10 minutes of arrival



**First Impression or EMS Assessment**

**Presenting Condition Assessment**  
see below  
**PAEDIATRIC PRESENTING CONDITIONS**

**Physiologic Assessment**  
Appearance - Neurologic  
Respiratory Rate + Effort  
Heart Rate + Perfusion

TIME TO REASSESSMENT OR MEDICAL CARE	TRIASGE LEVEL I <b>RESUSCITATION</b>	TRIASGE LEVEL II <b>EMERGENT</b>	TRIASGE LEVEL III <b>URGENT</b>	TRIASGE LEVEL IV <b>LESS URGENT</b>	TRIASGE LEVEL V <b>NON URGENT</b>																																																					
	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b> MINUTES <sup>*,z</sup>	<b>30</b> MINUTES <sup>*,z</sup>	<b>60</b> MINUTES <sup>*,z</sup>	<b>120</b> MINUTES <sup>*,z</sup>																																																					
<b>PHYSIOLOGIC ASSESSMENT</b>																																																										
	unresponsive	altered consciousness lethargic	infant - unconsolable not feeding atypical behaviour	infant - consolable history of atypical behaviour	no history of recent behaviour or vital sign change																																																					
<b>Respiratory Symptoms</b>	RR < NR +/- 2 SD inadequate breathing severe distress	RR < NR +/- 1 SD marked stridor moderate distress	RR outside NR for age stridor mild distress	RR - normal for age	RR - normal for age																																																					
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	HR < NR +/- 2 SD cardiac arrest shock cyanosis (NR = Normal Range)	HR < NR +/- 1 SD capillary refill > 4 sec	HR outside NR for age capillary refill > 2 sec	HR - normal for age	HR - normal for age																																																					
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age</th> <th colspan="2">RESPIRATORY RATE (RR)</th> <th rowspan="2">Normal Range (NR)</th> <th colspan="2">HEART RATE (HR)</th> <th rowspan="2">Normal Range (NR)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>+/- 2 SD</th> <th>+/- 1 SD</th> <th>+/- 2 SD</th> <th>+/- 1 SD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Birth - 3 months</td> <td>10 - 80</td> <td>20 - 70</td> <td>30 - 60</td> <td>40 - 230</td> <td>65 - 205</td> <td>90 - 180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 months - 6 months</td> <td>10 - 80</td> <td>20 - 70</td> <td>30 - 60</td> <td>40 - 210</td> <td>63 - 180</td> <td>80 - 160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 months - 1 year</td> <td>10 - 60</td> <td>17 - 55</td> <td>25 - 45</td> <td>40 - 180</td> <td>60 - 160</td> <td>80 - 140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 year - 3 years</td> <td>10 - 40</td> <td>15 - 35</td> <td>20 - 30</td> <td>40 - 165</td> <td>58 - 145</td> <td>75 - 130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 years</td> <td>8 - 32</td> <td>12 - 28</td> <td>16 - 24</td> <td>40 - 140</td> <td>55 - 125</td> <td>70 - 110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 years</td> <td>8 - 26</td> <td>10 - 24</td> <td>14 - 20</td> <td>30 - 120</td> <td>45 - 105</td> <td>60 - 90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Age	RESPIRATORY RATE (RR)		Normal Range (NR)	HEART RATE (HR)		Normal Range (NR)	+/- 2 SD	+/- 1 SD	+/- 2 SD	+/- 1 SD	Birth - 3 months	10 - 80	20 - 70	30 - 60	40 - 230	65 - 205	90 - 180	3 months - 6 months	10 - 80	20 - 70	30 - 60	40 - 210	63 - 180	80 - 160	6 months - 1 year	10 - 60	17 - 55	25 - 45	40 - 180	60 - 160	80 - 140	1 year - 3 years	10 - 40	15 - 35	20 - 30	40 - 165	58 - 145	75 - 130	6 years	8 - 32	12 - 28	16 - 24	40 - 140	55 - 125	70 - 110	10 years	8 - 26	10 - 24	14 - 20	30 - 120	45 - 105	60 - 90		
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<b>PAEDIATRIC PRESENTING CONDITIONS</b>																																																										
<b>Respiratory</b>	airway compromise severe distress critical asthma chest trauma with respiratory distress	marked stridor moderate distress severe asthma FB aspiration with respiratory distress inhalation of toxic substance	stridor mild distress moderate asthma FB aspiration with no respiratory distress constant cough - distressed	mild asthma possible FB aspiration with no distress minor chest injury no shortness of breath																																																						
<b>Neurological</b>	major head injury GCS < 10	moderate head injury GCS ≤ 13	minor head injury GCS ≤ 15	minor head injury																																																						
<b>CNS</b>	unresponsive actively seizing	altered consciousness headache severe sudden onset ill - shunt dysfunction new neurologic findings	history of altered consciousness headache possible shunt dysfunction previous seizure	no vomiting or altered consciousness chronic headache																																																						
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	cardiac arrest	tachycardia ++	tachycardia	normal heart rate	well hydrated																																																					
<b>Circulation</b>	shock hypotension exsanguinating haemorrhage	bradycardia severe dehydration uncontrollable major haemorrhage	signs of dehydration uncontrollable minor haemorrhage	chest pain																																																						
<b>Musculo-skeletal</b>	major trauma traumatic amputation - extremity hypothermia	traumatic amputation - digit open fracture fracture with neuro-vascular deficit back pain with neurologic symptom avulsed 2 <sup>nd</sup> tooth	fracture no neuro-vascular deficit tight cast joint pain with fever dental trauma	greenstick fracture extremity swelling sprain/strain																																																						
<b>Skin</b>	burn, > 25% BSA or airway involved	burn > 10% BSA burn- face, hand, foot chemical /electrical purpuric rash	burn < 10% BSA frostbite cellulitis - ill / fever complex lacerations	minor burn minor cold injury local cellulitis simple laceration	superficial burn abrasion, contusion, local rash minor insect bite																																																					
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	penetrating or blunt trauma with shock difficulty swallowing with airway compromise	acute bleeding - vomitus or rectal abdominal pain with vomiting / diarrhea / abnormal vital signs	persistent or bilious vomiting acute vomiting/ diarrhea age < 2 ? appendicitis	constipation / pain acute vomiting / diarrhea age > 2	vomiting or diarrhea no pain, no dehydration																																																					
<b>Genitourinary</b>	vaginal bleed - unstable	severe testicular pain ? ectopic pregnancy urine retention > 24 hr severe vaginal bleed paraphimosis	moderate testicular pain / swelling inguinal mass / pain urine retention > 8 hrs vaginal bleeding	scrotal trauma possible UTI																																																						
<b>Ear/Nose/Throat</b>	airway compromise	amputation ear uncontrolled epistaxis sore throat with drooling, stridor difficulty swallowing hoarseness after trauma	foreign body nose epistaxis controlled puncture palate tonsillar pustules with difficulty swallowing hearing problem Post T&A bleed	ear drainage earache	sore throat mouth sores nasal congestion laryngitis																																																					
<b>Eye</b>		chemical exposure penetrating injury orbital infection	vision change peri-orbital infection	tearing, discharge affecting function corneal FB	conjunctivitis																																																					
<b>Hematologic</b>	anaphylaxis	bleeding disorder	sickle cell crisis	local allergic reaction																																																						
<b>Immunologic</b>		fever- neutropenic / sickle cell	moderate allergic reaction																																																							
<b>Endocrine</b>	diabetic- altered consciousness	diabetic- ketoacidosis hypoglycemia	hyperglycemia																																																							
<b>Psychiatry</b>		toxic overdose high risk of harm to self / others violent behaviour	ingestion requiring observation moderate risk of harm to self / others disruptive/distressed	low risk of harm to self/ others depression	chronic symptoms with no change																																																					
<b>Behaviour Change</b>	unresponsive	lethargic child infant < 7 days old	unconsolable infant infant not feeding	irritable- consolable atypical behaviour																																																						
<b>Infection</b>	septic shock	infant < 3 mon 36< temperature ≥ 38 toxic appearance - any age	infant 3-36 mon with temperature > 38.5	Infant > 36 mon with temperature > 38.5 non toxic appearance																																																						
<b>Child Abuse</b>	unstable situation or conflict	ongoing risk	physical assault sexual abuse < 48 hr	signs / history of family violence																																																						
<b>Pain</b>		Severe 8 - 10 / 10	Moderate 4 - 7 / 10	Mild 1 - 3 / 10																																																						

\*TIMES TO ASSESSMENT are operating objectives, not established standards of care. Facilities without onsite physician coverage may meet assessment objectives using delegated protocols and remote communication.