ESI Triage Algorithm, v4

A. requires immediate life-saving intervention? yes → 1

no → B.

B. high risk situation? yes →

or confused/lethargic/disoriented? yes →

or severe pain/distress? yes →

no → how many different resources are needed? none → 5

one → 4

many → D.

D. danger zone vitals?

- HR < 3 m: <180
- HR 3 m-3 y: >160, >40
- HR 3-8 y: >140, >30
- HR >8 y: >100, >20
- RR S<92%:

consider → 4

no → 3

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**Notes:**

A. **Immediate life-saving intervention required:** airway, emergency medications, or other hemodynamic interventions (IV, supplemental O2, monitor, ECG or labs DO NOT count); and/or any of the following clinical conditions: intubated, apneic, pulseless, severe respiratory distress, SPO$_2$<90, acute mental status changes, or unresponsive.

**Unresponsiveness** is defined as a patient that is either:
1. nonverbal and not following commands (acutely); or
2. requires noxious stimulus (PU on AVPU) scale.

B. **High risk situation** is a patient you would put in your last open bed.
Severe pain/distress is determined by clinical observation and/or patient rating of greater than or equal to 7 on 0-10 pain scale.

C. **Resources:** Count the number of different types of resources, not the individual tests or x-rays (examples: CBC, electrolytes and coags equals one resource; CBC plus chest x-ray equals two resources).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Not Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Labs (blood, urine)</td>
<td>* History &amp; physical (including pelvic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* ECG, X-rays</td>
<td>* Point-of-care testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* CT/MRI-ultrasound-angiography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* IV fluids (hydration)</td>
<td>* Saline or heplock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* IV or IM or nebulized medications</td>
<td>* PO medications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Specialty consultation</td>
<td>* Tetanus immunization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Simple procedure =1</td>
<td>* Prescription refills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i.e. repair, Foley cath)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Complex procedure =2</td>
<td>* Phone call to PCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(conscious sedation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. **Danger Zone Vital Signs**
Consider uptriage to ESI 2 if any vital sign criterion is exceeded.

**Pediatric Fever Considerations**
1 to 28 days of age: assign at least ESI 2 if temp >38.0 C (100.4F)
1-3 months of age: consider assigning ESI 2 if temp >38.0 C (100.4F)
3 months to 3 yrs of age: consider assigning ESI 3 if: temp >39.0 C (102.2 F), or incomplete immunizations, or no obvious source of fever

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(Refer to teaching materials for further clarification)