

Triage

Patients are placed in a category according to the urgency of treatment required. The nursing staff will direct you to the next most urgent patient. There is now a National Triage Scale with target time which is as follows,

- Immediate Resuscitation (Cat 1) – all these patients are to be seen on arrival in the department.
- Very Urgent (Cat 2) – All these patients are to be seen within 10 minutes of arrival.
- Urgent (Cat3) – All these patients are to be seen within 60 minutes of arrival.
- Standard (Cat4) – The aim should be to see these patients within 120 minutes.
- Non Urgent (Cat 5) – Patients in this category should be seen within 240 minutes or redirected to alternative care.

The Accident & Emergency cards are therefore marked according to (target time), that is the time by which the patient should be seen in order to comply with our own standards of urgency banding.

The Triage Nurse will often send patients to x-ray according to a set protocol. Glass injuries and suspected skull fractures are also included. Patients may also be directed from Triage to the Returns Clinic (that day or later), the Trauma Clinic, the Eye Clinic etc. Make sure that if you see a patient following a triage directed x-ray, you must still take a history and examine them.