

Forsyth County EMS

Patient Care Policy: MCI Triage Policy

Background: Triage means “to sort”, and is the method used to determine patient care priority.

Purpose: To provide a patient care policy designed to provide a systematic approach to providing quality patient care to multiple patients while utilizing limited resources.

Goals:

- A) To provide medical care to patients based on an assessment of the patient’s needs, with the most urgent patient receiving care first.
- B) To allocate medical resources in such a manner that the most good is done for the most patients. This allocation is based on a rapid assessment and considers the urgency of the patient’s needs and the probability that the patient will survive.
- C) To provide orderly and prioritized transportation of patients to area hospitals based on the patient’s needs and transport capabilities.
- D) To distribute patients to facilities throughout the area in order to minimize the impact of the incident on any one facility. Care should be taken to assure that the distribution maximizes medical treatment to all patients.

Procedure :

- 1) When faced with a multi-patient situation, START triage should be utilized for Adult patients and JumpSTART triage shall be utilized for Pediatric patients whose age is < 8 years.
- 2) All patients that respond and listen appropriately to voice commands and are ambulatory should be directed to a staging area and initially tagged as GREEN.
- 3) All remaining patients will be assessed by the appropriate START or JumpSTART criteria.

The detailed algorithms for both START and JumpSTART can be found in the Appendix section.

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