STANISLAUS COUNTY EMS AGENCY   POLICY: **851.00**
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES   TITLE: **START TRIAGE AND PATIENT**
                                                    TRACKING EXERCISES

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office   EFFECTIVE DATE   08/01/2010
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               Medical Director   PAGE: 1of 4

START TRIAGE AND PATIENT TRACKING EXERCISES

I.   AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.151, 1797.204, 1797.220

II.   PURPOSE

To establish a standard mechanism for triage and tracking patients using the START triage method and current DMS/Cal-Fire Chiefs triage tags (see Attachment A); and to establish criteria for system-wide participation in triage exercises and quality improvement process.

III.   POLICY

All field and receiving hospital personnel shall participate in scheduled triage exercises as published by the EMS Agency.
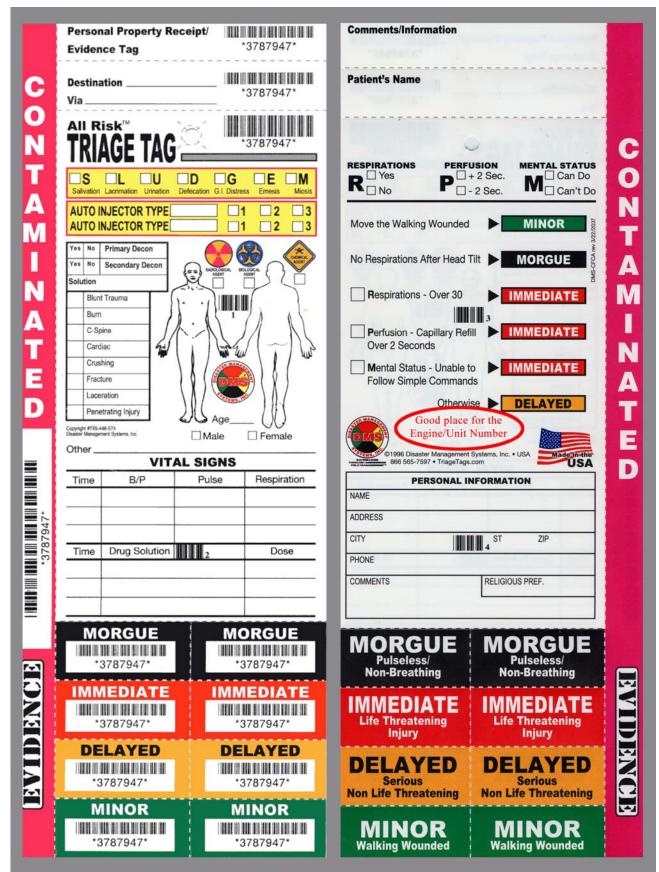
IV.   PROCEDURE

During scheduled triage exercises:

1. The first arriving unit (ambulance or fire) shall conduct triage during the first 30 seconds of patient contact; using standard START triage criteria (see Attachment B).

2. Triage of patients shall occur where they lie only if the area is safe. If the area is unsafe, the patient shall be moved to a safe area prior to conducting triage.

3. The transporting paramedic is responsible for ensuring that each patient transported is properly triaged and tagged prior to transport.

4. Patient treatment shall not be delayed during scheduled triage exercises.

A. Patient Tracking

1. Transporting personnel shall note the triage tag number on the patient care record. PCRs shall be generated on all patients.

2. Receiving hospital personnel shall have a mechanism in place to:

    a. Include the triage tag number in the patient registration process

    b. Retrieve patient information utilizing the triage tag number

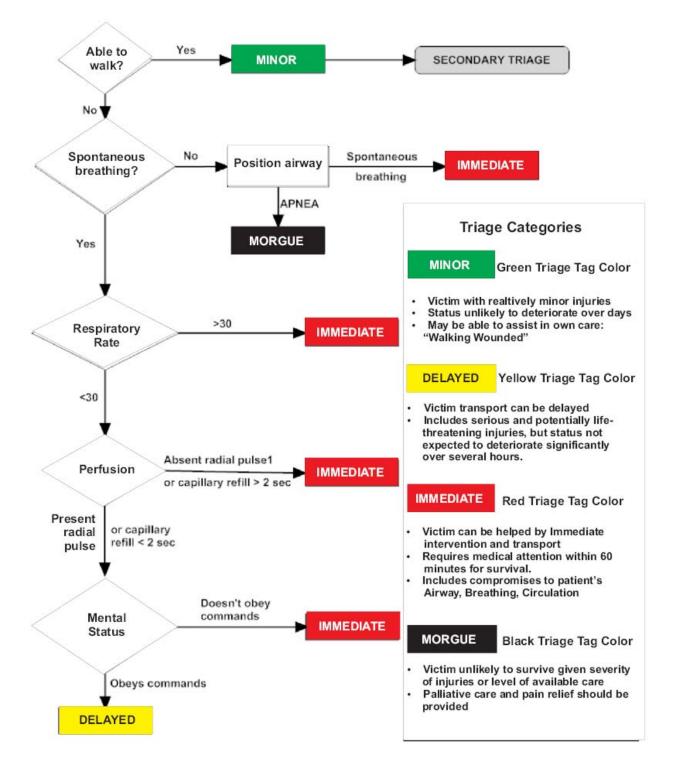   c. Link hospital medical record number with the triage tag number

B. Quality Improvement

    1. The Base Nurse Liaison shall perform audits of all triaged patients received during an exercise, utilizing the following indicators (see Attachment C):

        a. START was utilized

        b. Triage tag appropriately placed on patient

        c. Triage Category accurate and appropriate

        d. Patient information documented

        e. Treatment documented

        f. Vital signs documented

        g. Engine/Unit number present on tag (see notation on Attachment A)

        h. Triage tag number documented on patient record

        i. Triage tag number documented in ED medical record

    2. Representatives from each participating agency shall participate in regularly schedule QI meetings regarding Triage and Patient Tracking to review QI data and make recommendations for improvement.

Attachment A

Attachment B

S.T.A.R.T. Algorithm

Attachment C

START Triage Drill Log

Drill Date/ Shift	ID	Placed By	Transport By	Incident #	PCR #	Triage Tag #	START Used	Personal Info	Vital Signs	Treatment Documented	Triaged Appropriately	T-Tag # Rel'd on PCR	T-Tag Visible	Tag# in EMR/ Chart
	1													
	2													
	3													
	4													
	5													
	6													
	7													
	8													
	9													
	10													
	11													
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