

RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO ACUTE DETERIORATION PREHOSPITAL CLINICAL ESCALATION AND ACTIONS

PARAMEDIC

ALL PATIENTS EWS 0-4

- A-E assessment at first practical opportunity
- Full set of observations
- Regular observations increase frequency of observations if EWS increasing
- Document all assessments, actions, and outcome

AMBER ESCALATION EWS 5-6

Or any single observation in RED (score 3) area

Or any clinical trigger not immediately correctable:

- Increasing oxygen requirement
- Poor peripheral circulation
- BSL < 4mmol/l or >20mmol/l with no decrease in level of consciousness
- Concern by attending clinician

- Re-assess A-E and initiate appropriate clinical care
- Consider sepsis using appropriate sepsis screening tool
- Increase observation frequency

Acute illness or unstable chronic disease, at risk of deterioration

RED ESCALATION EWS 7+

Or any clinical trigger not immediately correctable:

- Partial airway obstruction or stridor
- Increasing oxygen requirements to maintain oxygen saturation >90%
- Only responds to pain on AVPU scale
- Sudden decrease in level of consciousness (drop of 2 or more points on GCS)
- BSL < 4mmol/l or > 20mmol/l with decrease in level of consciousness
- Serious concern by clinician

- Re-assess A-E and initiate appropriate clinical care
- Continuous cardiac monitoring where available and pulse oximetry along with increased frequency of observations.
- Consider sepsis using appropriate sepsis screening tool
- Consider Priority 1 transport
- Consider requirement for additional resources

Likely to deteriorate rapidly

EMERGENCY ESCALATION

Any single observation in PURPLE (E) area

Or any clinical trigger not immediately correctable:

- Cardiac or respiratory arrest
- Complete airway obstruction
- Patient unresponsive
- Generalised seizure activity
- Serious uncontrollable haemorrhage
- Any other time critical event of serious concern to clinician

- Re-assess A-E and initiate appropriate resuscitative care
- Priority 1 transport if not correctable
- Consider requirement for additional resources

Immediately life-threatening critical illness