

PERSONNEL

Triage is an essential but difficult task. It should always be carried out by trained staff. Over the course of an incident, the person triaging may change from an ambulance paramedic to a senior clinician. Whoever does it, the principles are the same.

SUMMARY

- Triage is the first step in the hierarchy of medical support at a major incident.
- It is a dynamic process, starting with a triage sieve at the site where casualties are found, moving via a physiological and anatomical triage sorting process in the Casualty Clearing Station (triage sort) and continuing on arrival at the receiving hospital through to the point of definitive care.
- Folding labels are the best labels available for dynamic triage.

For detail on how triage varies during CBRN incidents see Chapter 18 and for paediatric triage see Chapter 19.