



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Protocols

Revised Date: December 14, 2018

MENTAL HEALTH TRIAGE

18 years or older

Purpose

- To identify and connect individuals with the right level of care during a mental health crisis.
- The purpose of triage is to decide whether or not the person requires further assessment at an Emergency Department (ED) or if they would be better served at a Mental Health Urgent Care or Navigation Center within Yolo County.

ALS

- If ANY **categories** cannot be answered with “NO,” then the patient shall be transported by EMS to the closest most appropriate receiving ED for further evaluation.
- If ALL **categories** are answered with “NO,” then the patient is considered a candidate for transport by Law Enforcement or other non-EMS modes to a Mental Health Urgent Care or Navigation Center **within** Yolo County.

Triage Criteria

Suspect new onset mental health condition:	If “NO” continue
Medical condition that requires treatment:	If “NO” continue
Abnormal Vital Signs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature: > 38.0° C (100.4° F) • HR: < 50 or > 120 • BP: < 100 systolic or > 180 (2 consecutive readings) • RR: < 8 or > 22 • O₂ Sat: < 94% room air Mental Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot answer: name, month/year and location • Possible intoxication 	If “NO” continue
Risky Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age > 55 • Possible OD/Ingestion • Eating disorder • Possibility for alcohol withdrawals (DT’s) • Ill appearing • Any obvious life threatening injuries 	If “NO” continue

Direction

- All patients meeting criteria for transport by Law Enforcement or other non-EMS mode shall have a Mental Health Triage Form completed and signed by the Paramedic and transporting agency representative. This form shall be scanned into the ePCR.
- If at any time the Paramedic has a concern about the most appropriate destination, contact Base Hospital Physician for transport decision.