

**St. Clair County
SYSTEM
PATIENT PRIORITIZATION POLICY**

Date: Sept. 2004

Section 8-8

Purpose: To provide guidelines for prioritization of the patient's clinical status.

1. Priority 1
 - A. Critically ill or injured patient with an immediate life-threatening condition.
 - B. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Unstable or deteriorating vital signs
 - b. Compromised airway
 - c. Severe respiratory distress/failure
 - d. Cardiac arrest or post cardiac arrest
 - e. $GCS \leq 10$
 - f. Significant blunt or penetrating trauma including but not limited to:
 1. Airway compromised
 2. Respiratory distress
 3. Signs of inadequate perfusion
 - g. Actively seizing patient
2. Priority 2
 - A. Seriously ill or injured patient without immediate life-threatening condition.
 - B. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. GCS 11-14
 - b. Medical conditions such as chest pain, stroke, respiratory distress without immediate threat to life.
 - c. Altered level of consciousness, responding to verbal or painful stimuli
 - d. Significant mechanism of injury in patient with stable vital signs
3. Priority 3
 - A. Ill or injured patients not fitting the above two categories who require medical attention and do not have a life-threatening problems.
4. Dead on Scene
 - A. Refer to **Dead on Scene Procedure**.