



Organization and Delivery of Burn Care Committee

Crisis Standards of Care for the Care of the Burn Injured Patient during the COVID-19 Crisis – Additional Guidance

Guidance for interpretation of the *Burn Mass Casualty Incidents, the Revised (v.3) Triage Tables during a Surge of Burn Injured Patients* during the resource strained environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ABA proposes guidance to clinicians tasked with allocation of scarce resources between patients with differing conditions to align recommendations in part with those of the Committee on Crisis Standards of Care for the Institute of Medicine, National Academies of Sciences.¹ Their publication guided the work in this report,² identified here as “conventional, contingency, and crisis” standards of care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, shortages of resources related to workforce, supplies such as PPE, blood, ventilators and other supplies might create the need for some level of altered standards of care. The v3 tables suggest guidance on burn patient triage based on age and burn size during these altered standards of care. All disasters are local; therefore, as your local algorithm is developed, consider both burn patients as well as the capacity in the system being overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These tables should inform how you could include burn patients in your overall management of acutely ill and injured patients. Although the number of burn patients may not be as overwhelming in the COVID-19 pandemic, the strain on resources creates a crisis similar to that described in the paper.

Please note that there are no data to support differences in the long-term quality of life solely related to burn size.

1. Committee on Crisis Standards of Care ATfI, Triggers, Board on Health Sciences P, Institute of M. In: Hanfling D, Hick JL, Stroud C, eds. *Crisis Standards of Care: A Toolkit for Indicators and Triggers*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US). Copyright 2013 by the National Academy of Sciences. All rights reserved.; 2013.
2. Kearns RD, Bettencourt AP, Hickerson WL, et al. Actionable, Revised (v.3), and Amplified American Burn Association Triage Tables for Mass Casualties: A Civilian Defense Guideline *Journal of Burn Care & Research*. 2020.

These guidelines do not constitute medical advice. The judgment of the individual healthcare practitioner based on all relevant circumstances should take precedence over these guidelines.

March 27, 2020