Policy Directive

Mass Casualty Triage – Smart Triage Packs

Summary This policy specifies the use of Mass Casualty Triage - SMART Triage Packs in a mass casualty situation, documentation in the field and when patients are transported to hospital to denote the priority for treatment under the Medical Service Supporting Plan. The SMART Triage packs form part of the Health Response team medical equipment and NSW Ambulance carries SMART Triage Packs across all ambulance vehicles for use in a mass casualty incident.

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Author branch System Management

Branch contact (02) 9391 9823

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Personnel/Workforce - Occupational Health and Safety
Population Health - Disaster management

Applies to Government Medical Officers, Local Health Districts, Ministry of Health, NSW Ambulance Service, Public Health System Support Division, Public Hospitals, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations

Distributed to Government Medical Officers, Ministry of Health, NSW Ambulance Service, Public Health System

Audience Health response units under the disaster managament Medical Services Supporting Plan

MASS CASUALTY TRIAGE – SMART TRIAGE PACKS

PURPOSE

This policy specifies the use of Mass Casualty Triage - SMART Triage Packs in a mass casualty situation to denote the priority for treatment under the Medical Service Supporting Plan (GL2010_011).

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

This policy sets the requirements for the use of the SMART Triage Packs for mass casualty triage, documentation in the field and when patients are immediately transported to hospital. The SMART Triage Tags form part of the patient's health record.

In Local Health Districts, the SMART Triage Packs form part of the Health Response Team Medical Equipment list requirements (PD2009_080). NSW Ambulance carries SMART Triage Packs across all ambulance vehicles for use in mass casualty incidents.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy replaces PD2011_044 Mass Casualty Triage Pack – SMART Triage Pack which was implemented across Local Health Districts and NSW Ambulance in 2011.

SMART Triage Packs are included in the HealthShare NSW catalogue.

Local Health Districts

Local Health Districts are responsible for:
* Ensuring that the policy is brought to the attention of staff who are responsible for maintenance, storing, management and use of the SMART Triage Packs.
* Ensuring staff are appropriately trained in the use of the Kits.
* Ensuring Health Response Team Kits within the Local Health District are stocked with two (2) SMART Triage Packs.

NSW Ambulance

NSW Ambulance is responsible for:
* Ensuring that the policy is brought to the attention of staff who are responsible for maintenance, storing, management and use of the SMART Triage Packs.
* Ensuring staff are appropriately trained in the use of the Kits.
* Replacing and maintaining the stock of SMART Triage Pack items in NSW Ambulance fleet.

NSW Health Emergency Management Unit

NSW Health Emergency Management Unit is responsible for:
- Reviewing and updating this policy every three (3) years or earlier if any request is made to NSW Health Emergency Management Unit following a mass casualty incident or operation.
- E-learning package for Mass Casualty Triage Training.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
October 2017 (PD2017_037)	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health	Policy review. Replaces PD2011_044
July 2011 (PD2011_044)	Deputy Director-General Population Health	Policy introduces the SMART Triage Pack. Replaced PD2005_482.
March 1987 (PD2005_482)	Director-General	Originally issued as Circular 87/62

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mass Casualty Triage & SMART Triage Packs: Procedures

Mass Casualty Triage & SMART Triage Packs

Mass Casualty Triage & SMART Triage Packs

CONTENTS

1   BACKGROUND

1.1   Triage

Triage was first introduced in a military context as a system of sorting casualties for medical treatment in the field. In recent decades, the triage concept has been adopted and implemented in disaster medical management and emergency departments.

In the context of medical management in a mass casualty situation, the aims of triage are not only to deliver the right patient to the right place for optimal treatment, but also to 'do the greatest good for greatest number' with medical resources available which should not be diverted to treating an irrecoverable condition.

1.2   Australian Standard Mass Casualty Triage Tags

In 2010, the SMART Triage Tags were approved as an Australian standard mass casualty triage label by the Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) following consultation with jurisdictional Health Departments.

The SMART Triage Tags provide a standard tool for the mass casualty triage process in a mass casualty incident. The tags provide a national consistent approach to mass casualty triage across Australia[1].

The SMART Triage Tags meet world's best practice and have been tested and evaluated for Australian conditions.

2   SMART TRIAGE PACKS

2.1   Personal SMART Triage Pack

The personal SMART Triage Pack (Red colour for Ambulance Services and Green colour for Health Response Teams) consists of:

- SMART Triage Tags
- Triage Sieve and Casualty Count Chart
- Paediatric SMART Tape
- CBR Tags
- Light stick and pencils

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[1] Aitken, P. & Fitzgerald, G., (2012) Disaster triage: Evidence, consistency and standard practice. Emergency Medicine Australasia 2012 24,222-224.

Tools for rapid effective triage

Velcro attachment fits any duty belt

Triage Pack – Red colour for Ambulance Services and Green colour for Hospital Packs

Easy access to contents

Photo source: SMART TAG™

Health Response Team Kits are to have two (2) SMART Triage Packs per kit.

2.2 Commander Triage Pack

The Commander Triage Pack, located in ambulance supervisor vehicles, includes:

- Incident Control Boards – detachable and Velcro to the Commander pack
- Document holders for maps and plans
- SMART Triage Tags
- Dispatch panels for holding the Transport tags
- Internal pockets for additional equipment

2.3 SMART Triage Tag

The SMART Triage Tag is a variable triage tag that enables field documentation. The tag is durable, waterproof and can be written on when wet.

Each SMART Triage Tag has an individual barcode and unique identifier number. The unique identifier number shall be recorded in all patient documentation. Each SMART Triage Tag has a plastic bag with a main pocket for the Triage Tag and a small front pocket when using a CBR (Chemical, Biological & Radiation) Tag.

Figure 1:
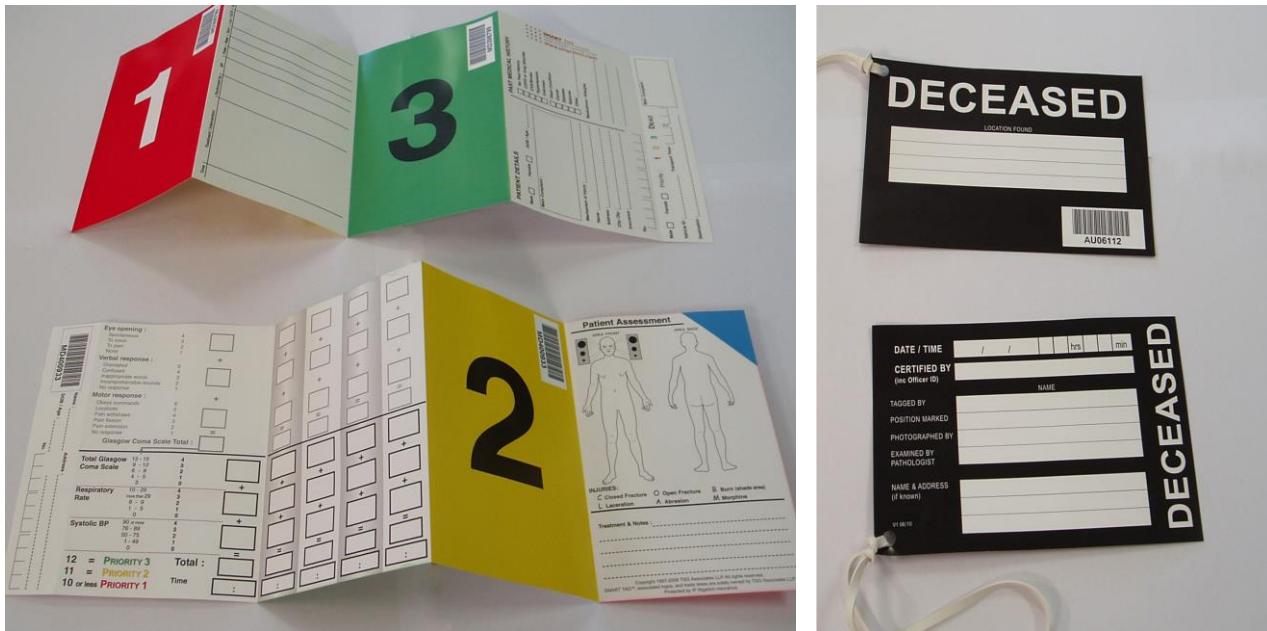
The SMART Triage Tag has a prominent priority numbering and matching colour system on the tag (Figure 1). A separate Black colour triage tag is to be used for deceased persons (Figure 1).

The blue colour corner (Figure 2) of the SMART Triage Tag is referred to as the Fourth Priority or Expectant. The Expectant priority refers to a patient whose condition is so severe that they cannot survive despite the best available care. The Expectant category will only be used in NSW following a major or catastrophic event where the number and criticality of patient(s) significantly diverts medical resources from the salvageable patient who may then be compromised.

 The authorisation to implement this category can only be given by the State Health Services Functional Area Coordinator (HSFAC) following clinical discussions with the Medical Supervisor on site as outlined in NSW Ambulance Major Incident Response Plan (NSW AMPLAN).

Figure 2:
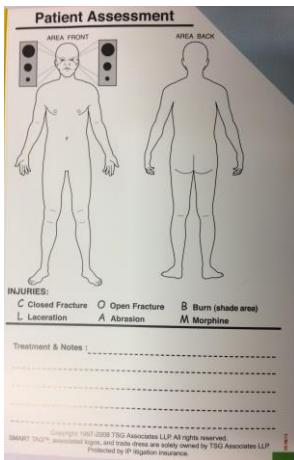
Expectant (Blue) category corner

The SMART Tag provides documentation for recording patient changes in condition. The tag can be refolded to display a different priority without losing the important patient information already recorded on the tag.

Time should be recorded on the tag using 24 hour time (00:00-23:59).

Figure 3:
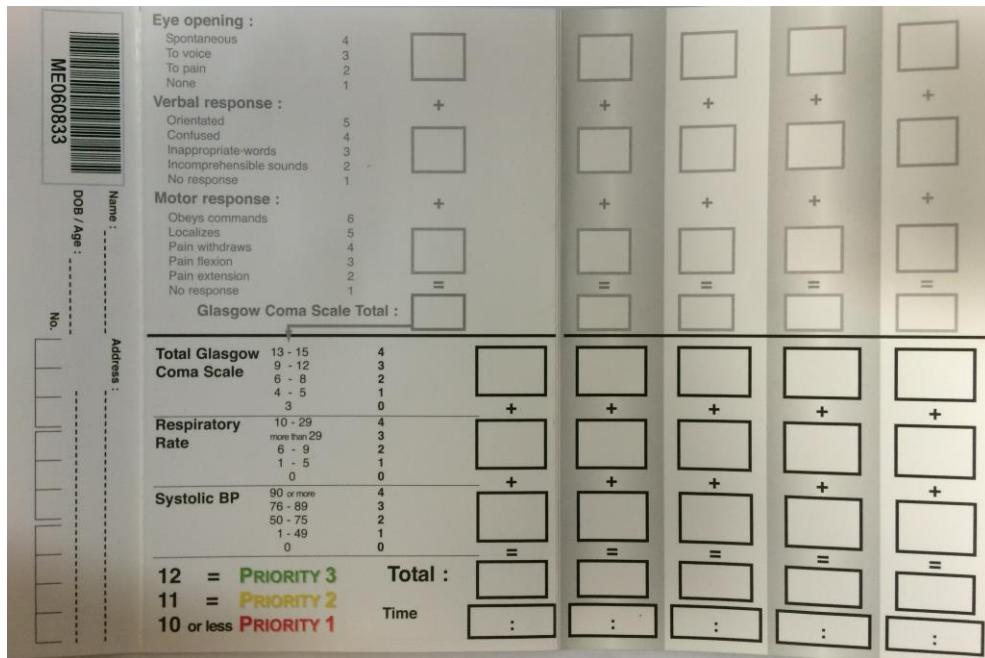
Before the patient is transferred to a definitive health care facility, the Ambulance Loading Point Officer will complete and remove the transport tag (at the side of the SMART Triage Tag) for records (Figure 4). This documentation enables the tracking and accounting of the casualty's movement and destination.

Figure 4:

Transport Tag

The SMART Triage Tag will remain attached to the patient who is then transferred to the definitive care destination.

The card allows further patient information to be recorded as necessary:

2.4 Casualty Count Chart

A double sided card with the casualty count chart (Figure 5) and adult triage sieve process is attached to the SMART Triage Pack with an elastic band. The chart provides a

quick reference of the triage sieve process and a casualty count record is a document that can be used by to track the number of casualties and the clinical acuity.

The card is made from the same durable material as the SMART Triage tags.

Figure 5:

2.5 Paediatric SMART Tape

The durable Paediatric SMART Tape is an evidence based system[2] [3] and is to be used as a non-biased triage decision for children from 3kg/50cm to 32kg/140cm[4]. The Paediatric SMART Tape allows a triage sieve to be performed on any child less than 32kg. The use of this tool has been incorporated into the existing NSW Health and Ambulance training programs.

If resources or time do not permit, the adult triage sieve can be used for paediatrics, however this may result in the over triage of a paediatric casualty.

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[2] Hodgetts, T., J. Maconochie, C. & Smart, C (1998). Paediatric triage tape. Pre-hospital Immediate Care 2:155-159.

[3] Wallis, LA & Carley, S (2006) Validation of the Paediatric Triage Tape, Emergency Medicine Journal. Jan: 23 (1):47-50.

[4] Sandell, J. M. & Charman, S.C (2009). Can age-based estimates of weight be safely used when resuscitating children? Emergency Medicine Journal 2009; 26; 43-47.
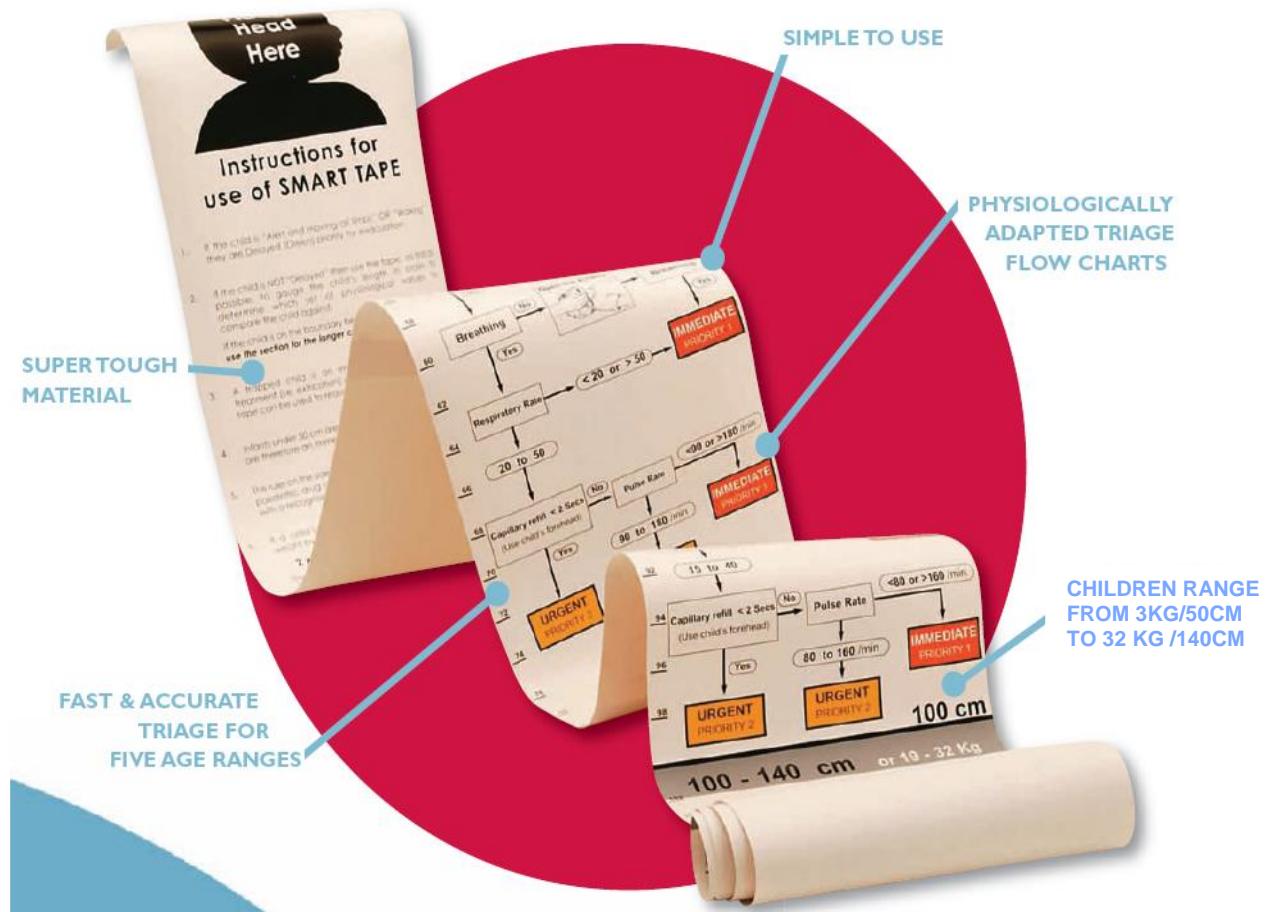
Photo source: SMART TAG™

2.6   CBR Tag[5]

The Chemical Biological and Radiological (CBR) Tag provides a form to record the details for contaminated casualties from an incident involving chemical, biological, radiological or infectious agents. The CBR Tag allows recording of particular agents, decontamination and any use of auto-injectors.

The CBR Tag DOES NOT replace the SMART Triage Tag and does not have a unique identifier barcode and number. The CBR Tag must be used in conjunction with the SMART Triage Tag.

The unique identifier number of the victim's SMART Triage Tag is required to be documented on the CBR Tag. The completed CBR Tag is to be inserted in the front clear pocket of the SMART Triage Tag plastic packet.

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[5] The term 'WMD" used in the SMART Triage Pack or Education Pack, should be referred as "CBR". "WMD' is a term used in USA but not in Australia. In Australia, the term "CBR" is used instead

Photo source: SMART TAG™

3 TRAINING

The SMART Triage Pack has been incorporated in the Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS) course and Ambulance training programs.

An e-learning package has been developed for all staff within NSW Health and NSW Ambulance and is available on My Health Learning. The course code for Mass Casualty Triage Training is 122605241.

NSW Health and NSW Ambulance have trainers that can provide education in the SMART Triage System.

4 ORDERING REQUIREMENTS AND DETAILS

SMART Triage items can be ordered through the HealthShare NSW catalogue with the following details (as stock items):

HIMF Number	Description
710779	DISASTER TRIAGE TAG, **SMART TRIAGE** TAG
710789	DISASTER TRIAGE TAG, **CBRN/HAZMAT** TAG
710787	DISASTER TRIAGE TAG, **DECEASED** TAG -

710782	DISASTER TRIAGE TAG, SMART CASUALTY CARD, SIEVES (Pack5) - **Triage Sieve Algorithm / Casualty Count Card**
710783	DISASTER TRIAGE TAG, SMART TAPE, CHILD - **Paediatric Triage Tape**
710780	DISASTER TRIAGE TAG, RE-SUPPLY FOR SMART TRIAGE KIT - **Contents only – no bag**
788136	DISASTER PACK, *EMPTY*, SMART TRIAGE, RED - **Empty bag – for re-issue if contaminated** ***Note: LHDs will need to order replacement green bags directly from Midmed**
710790	DISASTER PACK, SMART TRIAGE KIT, RED - **Full kit with contents** ***Note: LHDs will need to order replacement green bags directly from Midmed**

* For Replacement of the Green bags by LHDs, non-stock orders are to be quoted and ordered with the Supplier:

MIDMED PTY LTD

1300 643 633

www.midmed.com.au