TITLE: Emergency Department Intake Procedures for Geriatric Patients: Clinical-Effectiveness and Guidelines

DATE: 6 May 2009

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the evidence against the use of the Canadian Triage Acuity Scale in senior patients presenting to the emergency department?

2. What guidelines exist for best assessing senior patients who present to the emergency department?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2009), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2004 and May 2009, and are limited to English language publications only. For question #1, filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic review, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, clinical studies, and observational studies. For question #2, filters were applied to limit the retrieval to guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.
Five observational studies were identified pertaining to the use of triage scales in senior patients presenting to the emergency department. No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, controlled clinical trials, randomized controlled trials, or evidence-based guidelines were identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified.

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
No literature identified.

**Randomized controlled trials**
No literature identified.

**Controlled clinical trials**
No literature identified.

**Observational studies**


**Guidelines and recommendations**
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations


Review articles


Additional references


Tools for discharge from the ED

Systematic Review


Observational Study