

Code Definitions

1. **Priority/Code One** - Highest Priority - immediate life or limb threatening situation (i.e., cardiac or respiratory arrest, airway obstruction, partial traumatic amputation).
2. **Priority/Code Two** – Urgent - any patient whose condition could deteriorate rapidly to a Priority ONE situation. Also, any patient who requires IV fluids, medications, airway control, ECG monitoring or spinal immobilization.
3. **Priority/Code Three** - Non-urgent - any patient whose condition is not expected to deteriorate or require hospitalization or surgery. Examples of Priority THREE would include:
 - A. Simple first aid.
 - B. Closed fractures of an extremity without neurovascular compromise.
 - C. Minor laceration, contusions, abrasions.
 - D. Minor medical complaints.

Examples of situations which are NOT Priority/Code Three

1. Respiratory distress: unless vital signs are stable and patient's clinical appearance presents no signs of respiratory compromise.
2. Decompensating COPD
3. Acute pulmonary edema
4. Chest pain
5. Cardiac arrhythmias
6. Drug ingestion
7. Significant abdominal pain
8. Allergic reaction
9. Possible spinal injuries (patients not suspected to have a spinal injury but are immobilized for safety precautions may be transported Priority Three.
10. Moderate to severe burns
11. Emergency child birth
12. Gastrointestinal bleeding
13. Seizures: unless the patient has a known history of convulsive disorder and is not actively seizing, and is alert and has no evidence of head trauma.
14. Coma
15. Syncopal episode
16. Hypothermia
17. Patients with altered mental status
18. CVA
19. Head injuries
20. Patients with abnormal vital signs (except asymptomatic hypertension)
21. Loss of or history of loss of consciousness
22. Any level of patient care beyond the BLS level