



EMERGENCY TRIAGE EDUCATION KIT (ETEK)[1] FAQS SHEET

1st December 2008

1. What is the ETEK?

The Emergency Triage Education Kit (ETEK) is a teaching resource that aims to provide a consistent approach to the educational preparation of Australian emergency clinicians for the triage role. In particular the ETEK has been designed to promote the correct use of the Australasian Triage Scale (ATS).

The ETEK is the product of collaboration between the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) Acute Care Division, and a number of key stakeholders including:

- The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM);
- The College of Emergency Nursing Australia (CENA);
- The Australian College of Emergency Nursing (ACEN);
- The Council of Remote Area Nurses Australia (CRANA); and
- The New South Wales Rural Emergency/Critical Care Nursing Consultants Planning Group.

Representatives of these groups formed the National Triage Working Party (NTWP) and were responsible for assisting DoHA with the development and implementation of the ETEK.

The program comprises 12 individual learning units which are listed below.

1. Introduction
2. The Australasian Triage Scale
3. Communication issues at triage
4. Triage basics
5. Mental health triage
6. Rural and remote triage
7. Pain assessment at triage
8. Paediatric triage
9. Obstetric triage
10. Medico legal issues at triage
11. Consolidation
12. Self test

Each chapter provides a condensed summary of key issues related to the topic, lesson plans, and individual learning activities. Resources such as web-based materials and evidence-based reviews are also included in the kit.

2. Who should have a copy of the ETEK?

All emergency departments have been sent two copies of the ETEK. These copies are for those clinicians/educators who run triage training in the workplace.

Universities have also been sent copies of the ETEK. University lecturers who teach emergency nursing can use the information contained in the ETEK to inform the delivery their specialist programs.



3. How do I obtain a copy of the ETEK?

Unfortunately, hard copies of the ETEK are currently out of stock. If you require a printed copy you can download the ETEK yourself and print your own copy from the following link:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/casemix-ED-Triage+Review+Fact+Sheet+Documents>

Alternatively, if you still require a printed copy from the department, you can send an email to triage.kit@health.gov.au with the number of copies you require with your mailing address and contact details. Once DoHA have enough requests, the department will consider doing another print run.

4. Can I photocopy and distribute the ETEK?

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5. How should clinical educators use the ETEK?

Although the ETEK provides a framework to guide clinicians in the application of the ATS, all workplaces will differ in the way their in-service/staff development programs operate.

The ETEK is divided into 12 modules that can be taught in one hour blocks.

We anticipate approximately 12-16 hours of time will be spent by educators delivering these units.

Participants who take part in the ETEK program are also expected to undertake some self directed learning activities.

In situations where there is no clinical educator, individuals can work through the program by completing the recommended readings and learning activities. The consolidation and self test chapters (Chapters 11 & 12) can then be used by individuals to perform a self assessment.

6. What has been done so far to role out the ETEK?

The ETEK was launched by DoHA at the 6th International Conference of Emergency Nursing on the 11th of October 2007. As part of the ETEK launch DoHA delivered a 90 minute workshop to introduce the kit.

Copies of the ETEK have now been distributed to all hospitals in Australia. In addition, all hospitals that have an emergency department have been sent an extra copy. Copies have also been sent to Schools of Nursing in Australian Universities.

7. Who should I speak with if I have further questions about the ETEK?

Please send an email to triage.kit@health.gov.au

1. Gerdtz MF, Considine JC, Sands N, Stewart CJ, Crellin D, Pollock WE, Tchernomoroff R, Knight K, Charles A: Emergency Triage Education Kit. Canberra, Australia. : CasemixDevelopment Projects Section, Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing; 2007.