



New Electronic Patient Triage Tool Implemented at BCHS

Beginning November 29, the Brant Community Healthcare System will be launching an electronic patient triage tool that will standardize the application of the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) guidelines in Emergency Departments across Ontario.

CTAS helps to define how long a patient can safely wait to be seen by an Emergency Department physician. This scale was designed to ensure that the sickest patients requiring the most urgent care are seen first, however studies have shown variation of how the guidelines are interpreted and applied.

As a result, an electronic solution has been developed and is being implemented at hospitals throughout the province. The Electronic Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (eCTAS) is a triage decision-support system; it is designed by clinical and technical experts and is based on proven research.

eCTAS seeks to improve patient safety and quality of care using this standardized process, and enhance accountability through the collection and analysis of clinical triage data.

With this new process, triage nurses using eCTAS will enter patient information into the system and a CTAS score is calculated based on their entries and the national triage guidelines.

As this will be a new process at the BCHS Emergency Department, please be advised that it may affect emergency triage times as we work to implement the new system and ensure thorough training for all triage nurses.

For more information, please contact:

Stefany Snedden
Communications Coordinator
stefany.snedden@bchsys.org
519-751-5544 ext. 2248