

# Prioritising Paediatric Care in Disasters

## New Risks and Opportunities

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## Aim

- Devise a novel paediatric mass casualty triage tool
- Hospital based
- In time for Exercise Caduceus

# Nature and Extent of the Problem

- Essential to prioritise those needing immediate care
- Existing systems in Australia adult based
- Physiological systems
- Use three categories: **Red**, **Yellow** and **Green**

# Strategic importance

The seven Strategic Directions:

1. Make prevention everybody's business
2. Create better experiences for people using health services
3. Strengthen primary health and continuing care in the community
4. Build regional and other partnerships for health
5. Make smart choices about the costs and benefits of health services
6. Build a sustainable health workforce
7. Be ready for new risks and opportunities.



# Planning & Implementing solutions

- Expert multidisciplinary panel
  
- Analysis of current practice and literature
  - Paediatric Triage Tape (Hodgetts et al. 1998)
  - Revised Trauma Score (Champion et al. 1989)
  
- Consultation workshops

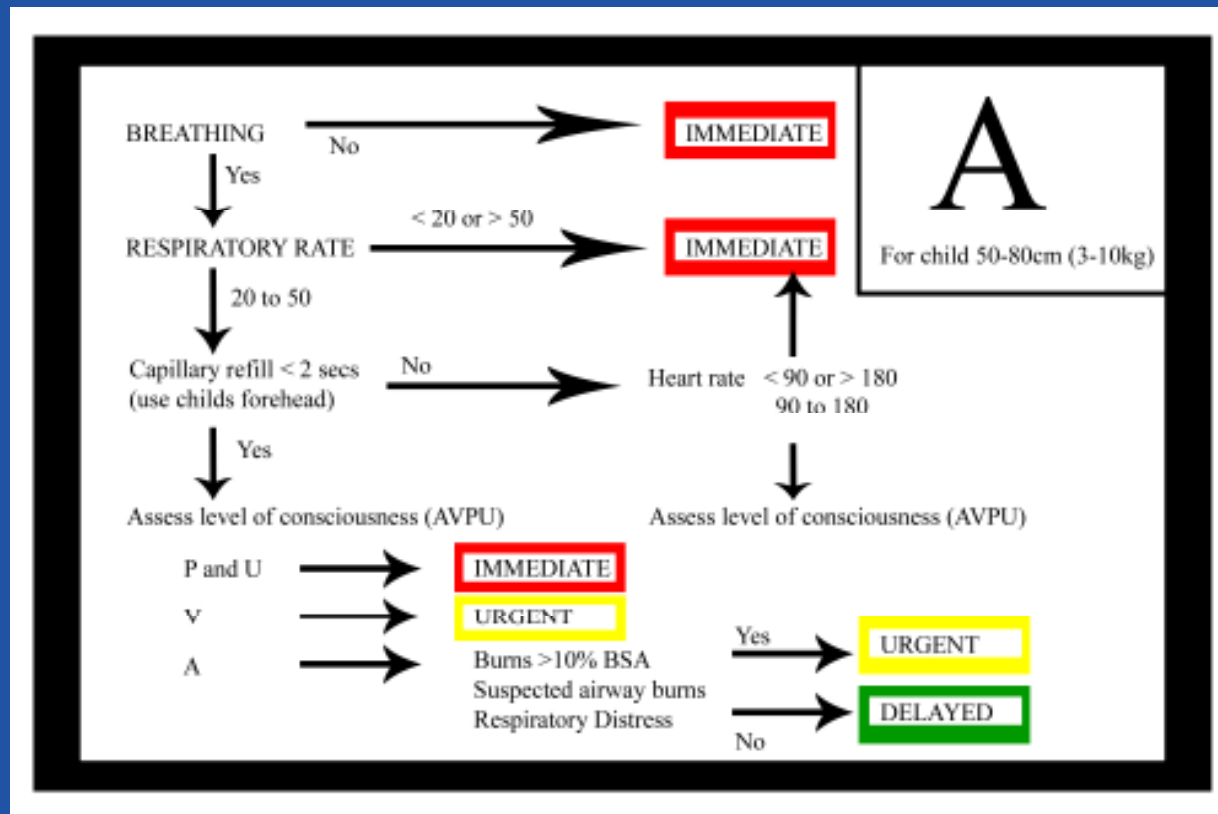
# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Paediatric Emergency Triage Ruler (PETeR)
  - height/length = weight
  - weight = physiological parameters
- 4 weight based triage groups (A to D)



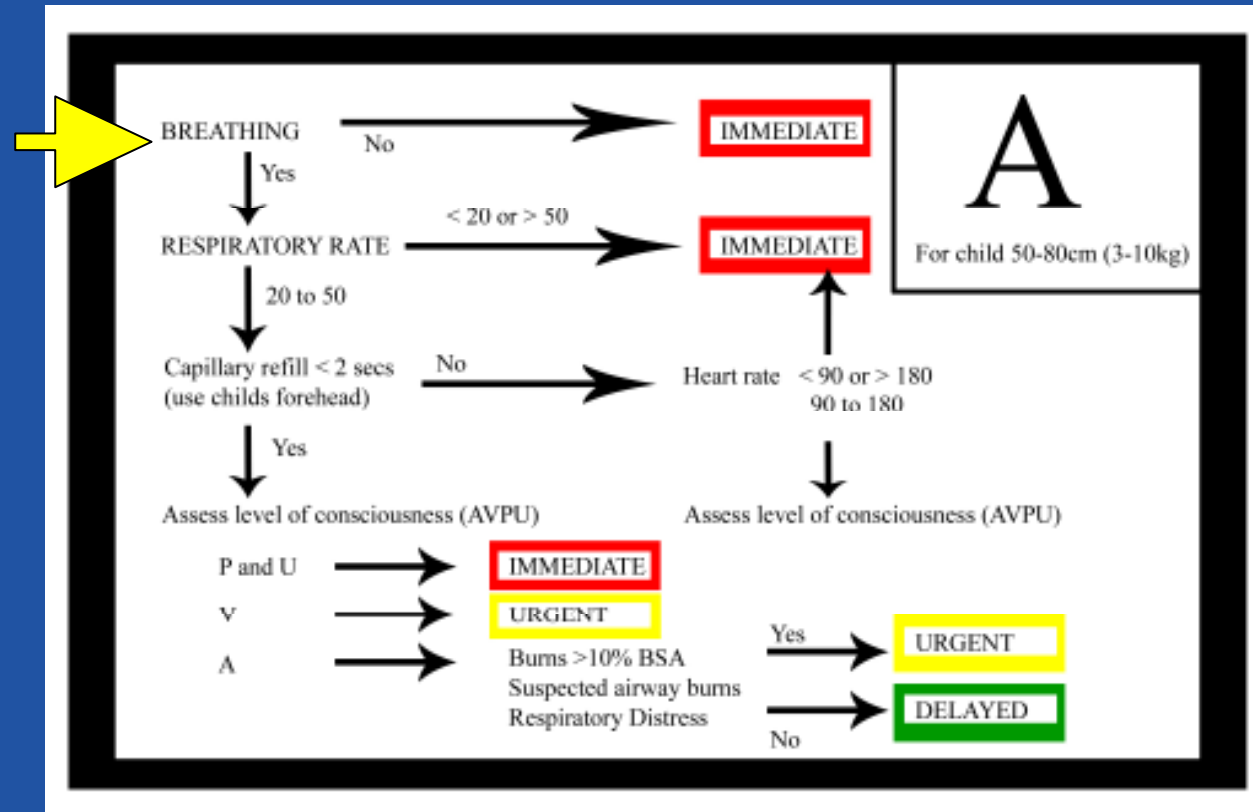
# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card



# Outcomes & Evaluation

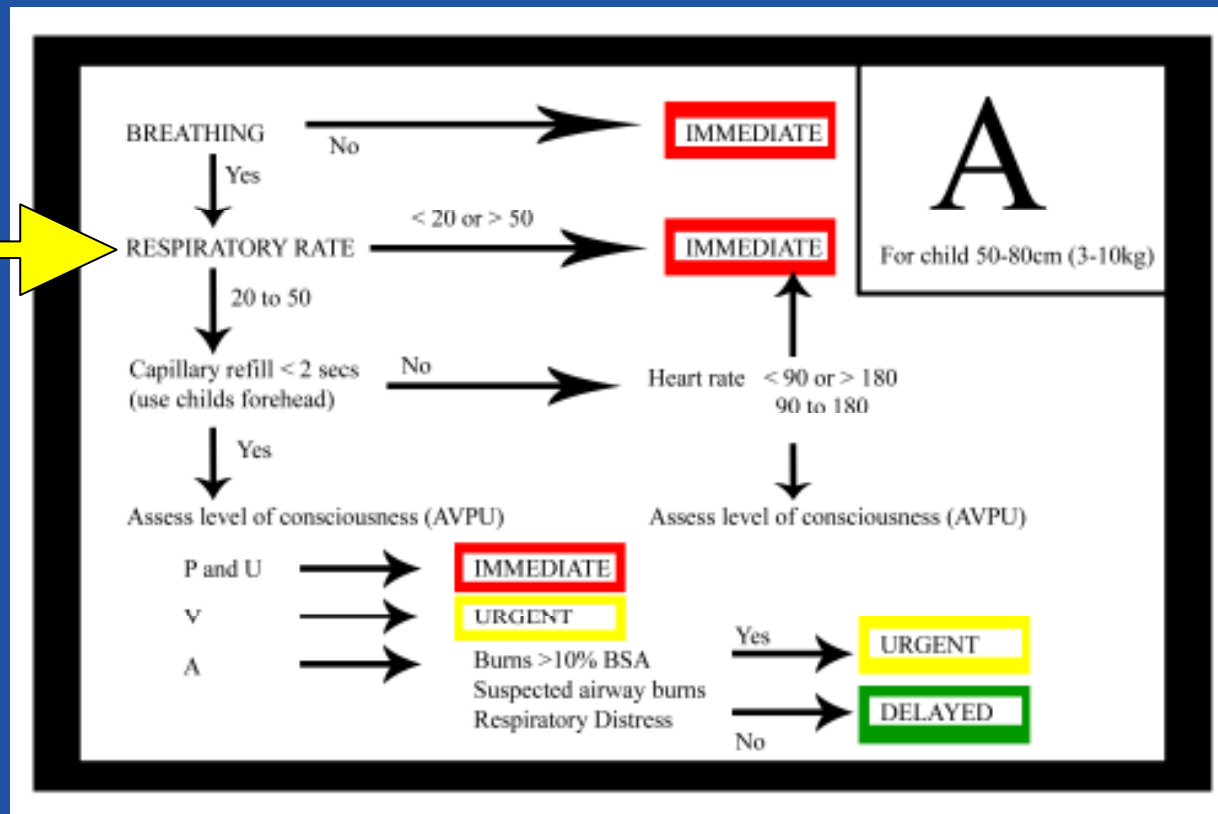
- Triage performed according to weight group card



- Breathing

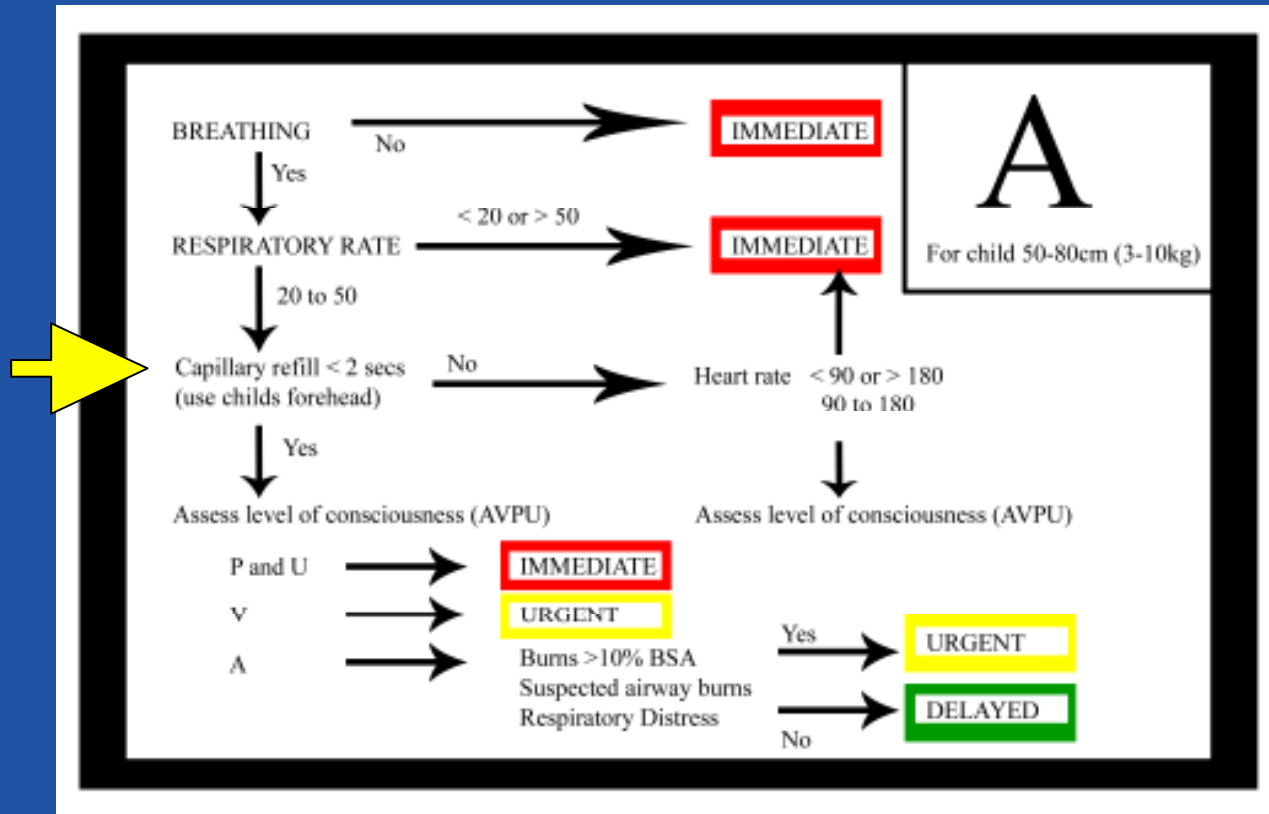
# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card
- Respiratory rate



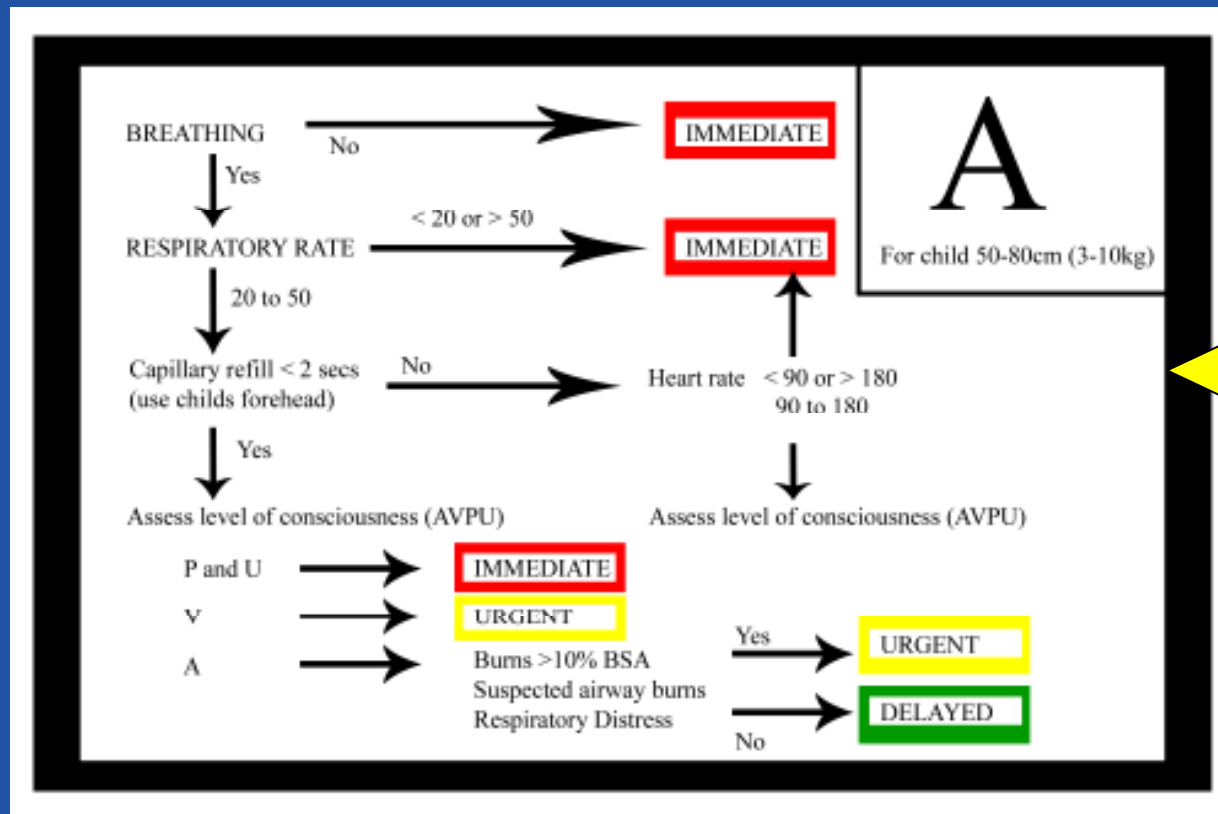
# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card
- Capillary refill



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card
- Heart rate

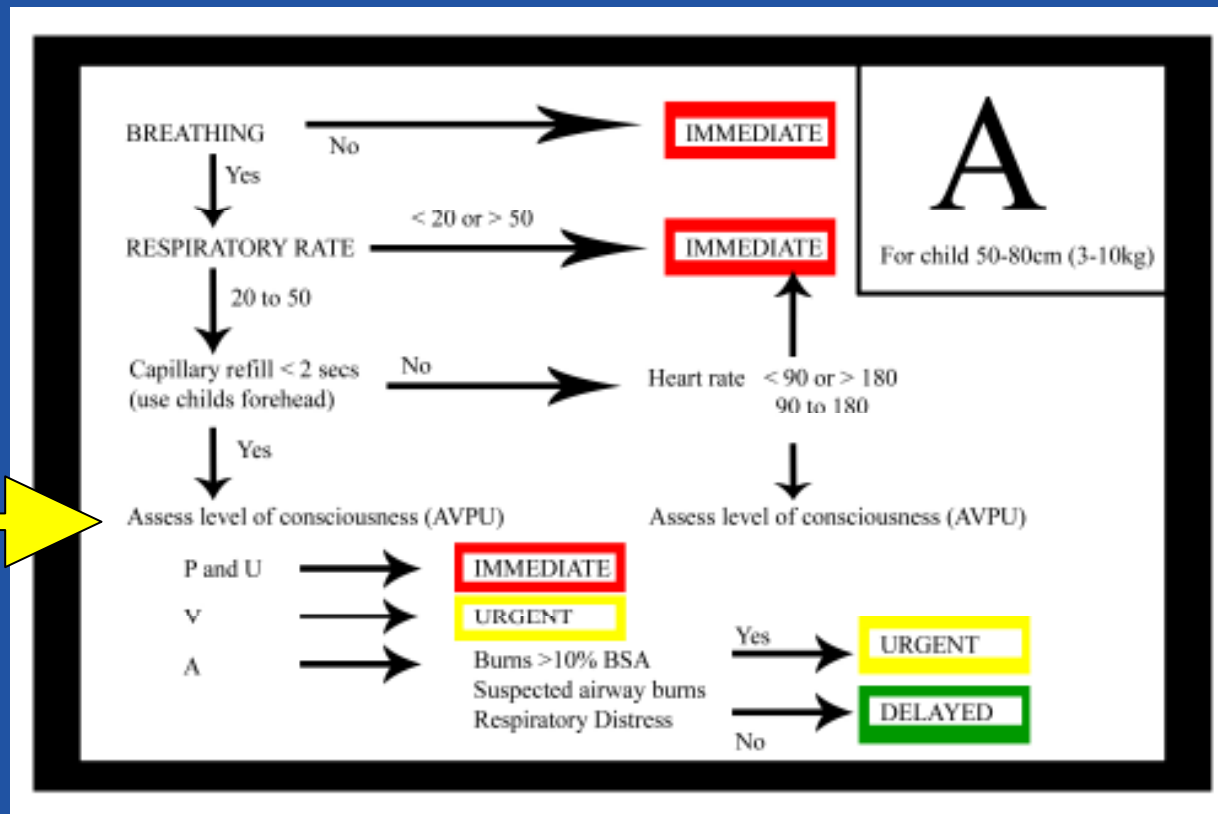


# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card

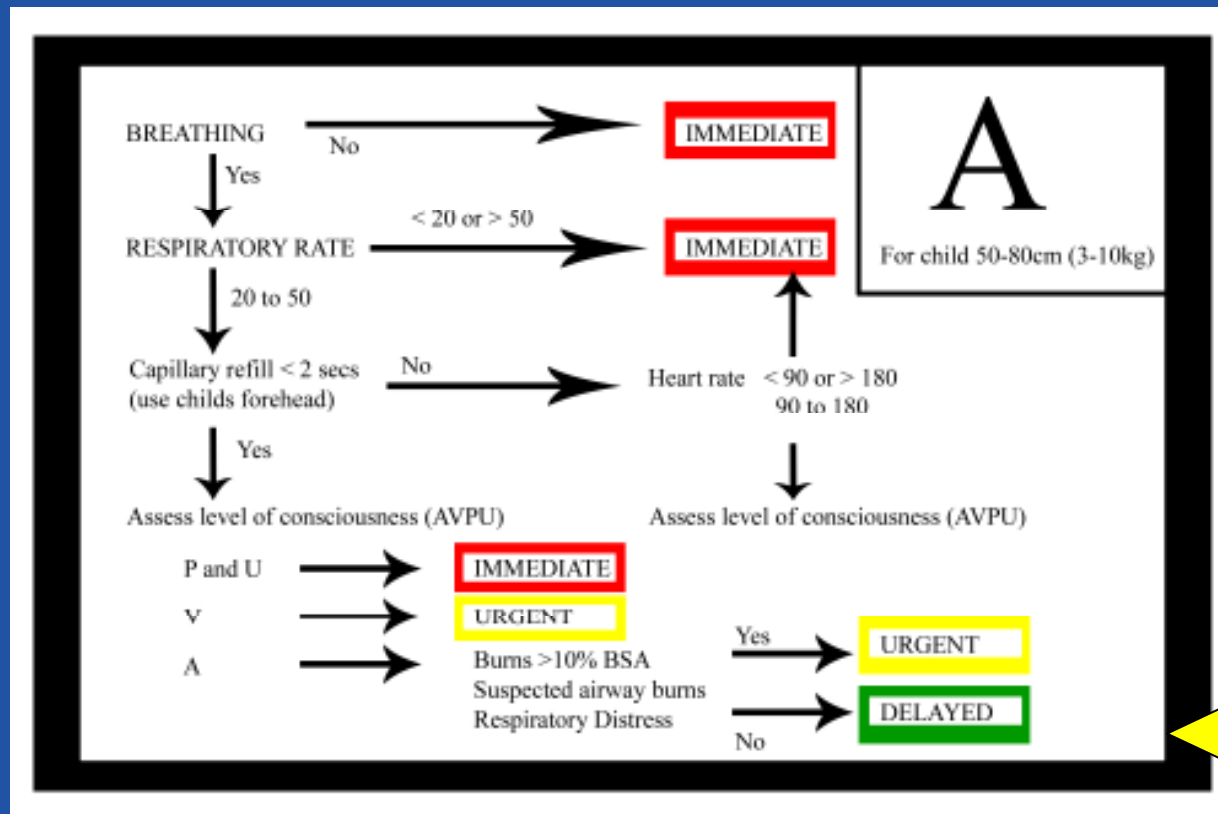


- AVPU



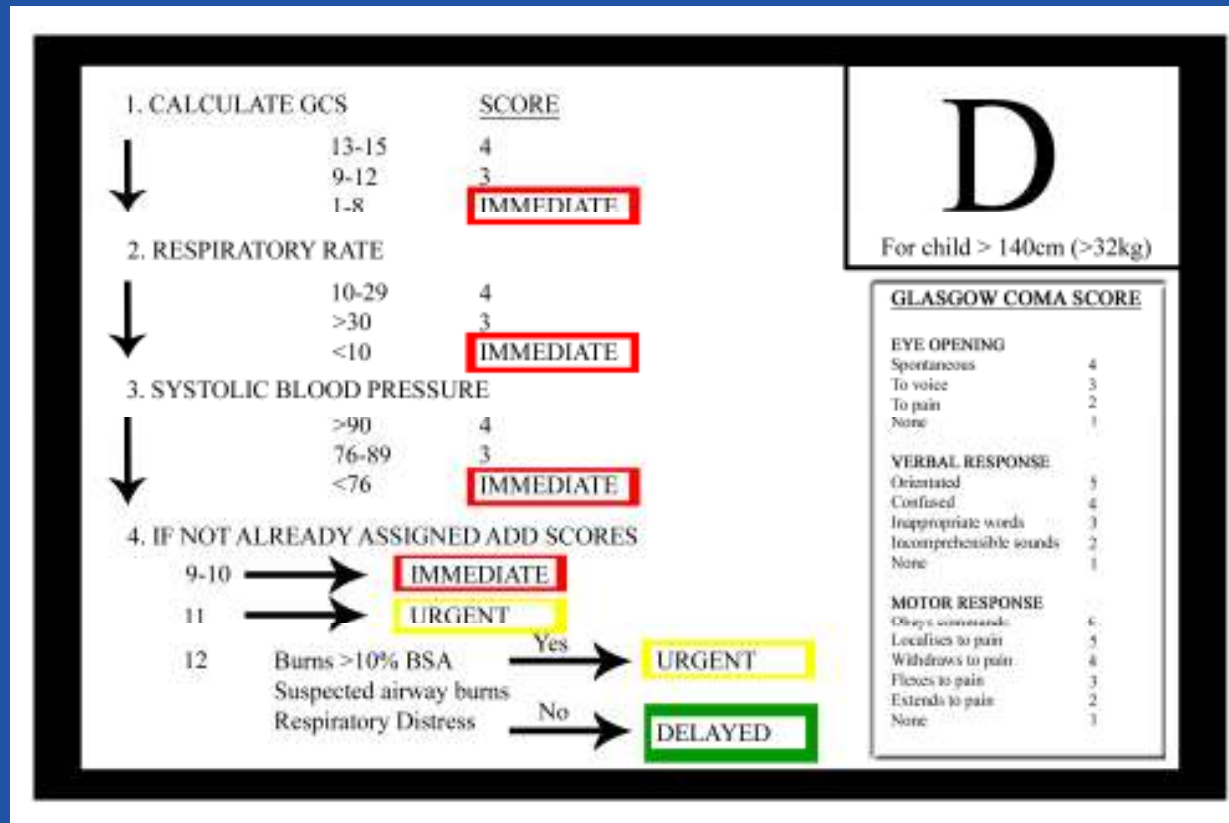
# Outcomes & Evaluation

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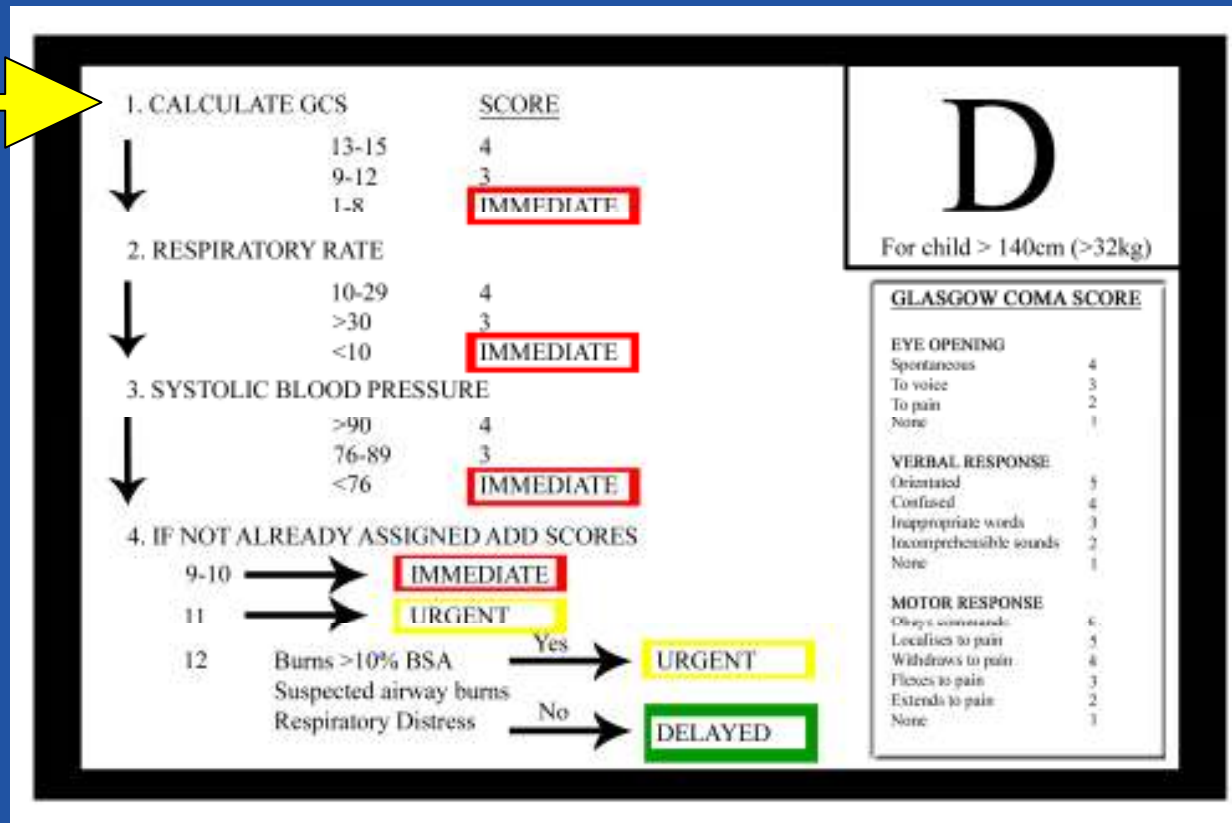


# Outcomes & Evaluation

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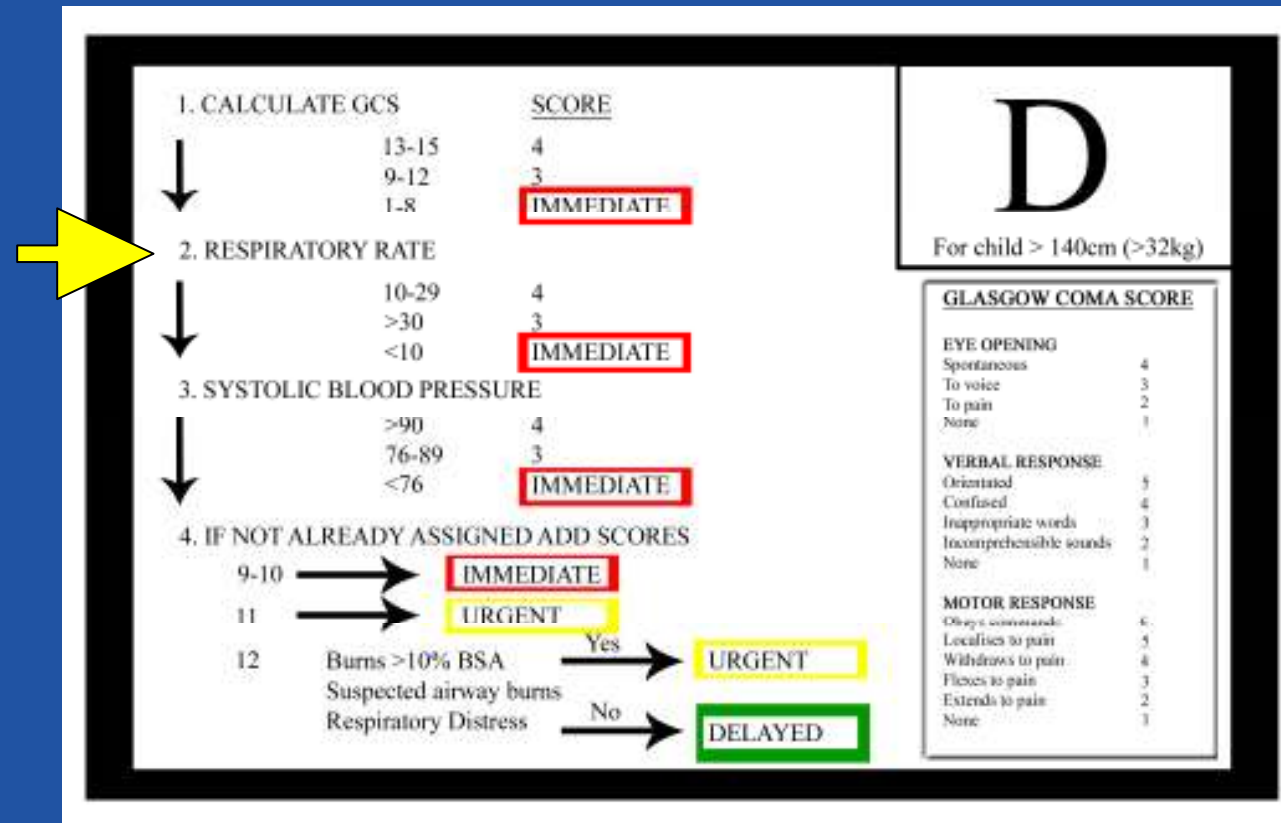


- GCS



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card
- Respiratory rate

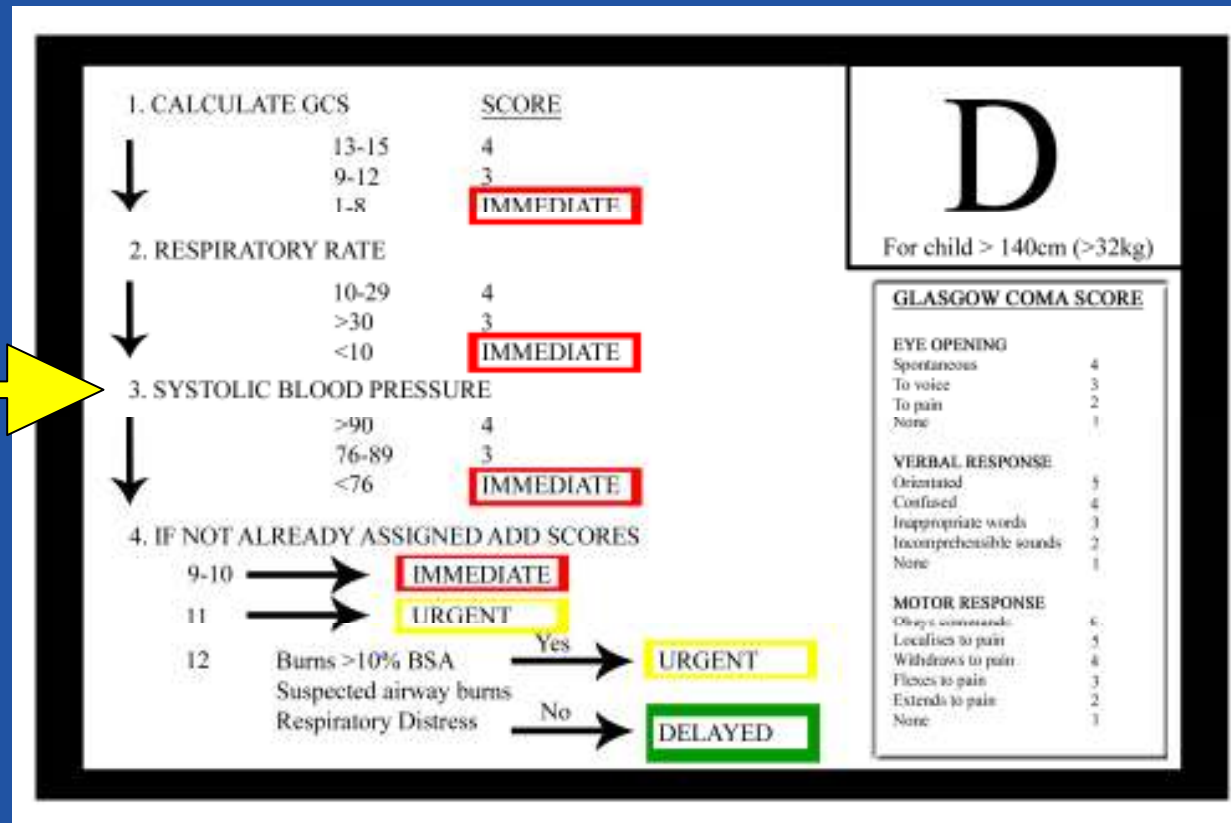


# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card

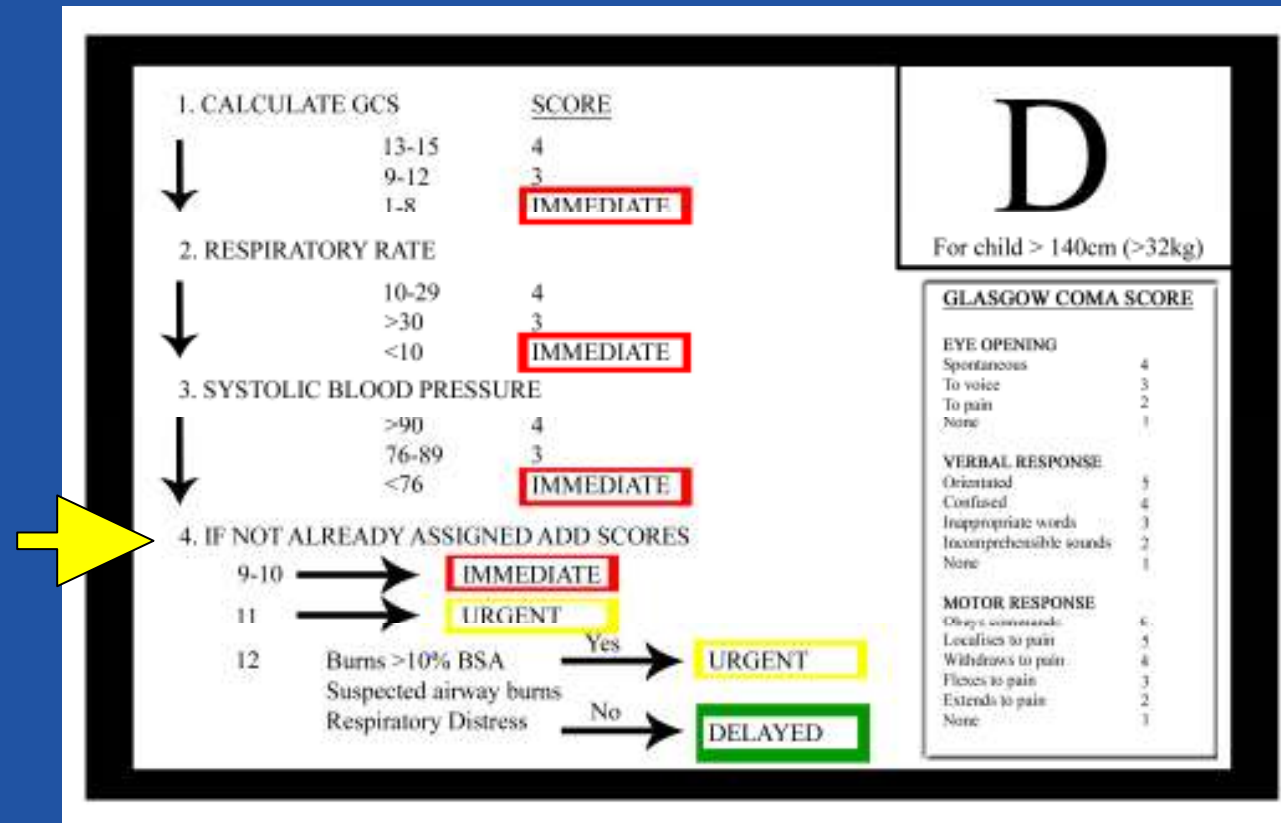


- Systolic BP



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Triage performed according to weight group card
- Add scores



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Step 1
  - Assign weight group



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Step 1
  - Assign weight group



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Step 2
  - Perform triage according to weight group



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Step 3
  - assign triage category
  - Write weight group on armband



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Step 4
  - Attach armband



# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Exercise Caduceus February 2007
  - Emergo Train System
  - Mass casualty incident at Parramatta
  - 140 patients in 3 hours
  - 92% correlation with preallocated triage categories





## Lessons Learned

- Triage cards modified to accommodate **Green** patients with high risk injuries
- Relatively simple solution to problem
- Modification of pre-existing, already validated tools

# Future Scope

