

Course Descriptor

Triage Principles: the Australasian Triage Scale in Practice · OBA-TRI-2026

DOCUMENT CONTROL

- Programme: Triage Principles: the Australasian Triage Scale in Practice (OBA-TRI-2026)
- Audience: Student and Facilitator · public-facing
- Version 1.0 | Issued 19/09/2026 | Review due 19/09/2027
- Provider: OBA Nursing Academy

Triage Principles: the Australasian Triage Scale in Practice

A fully self-directed, entirely online professional development programme for nurses, medical and procedural clinicians, student nurses, internationally qualified nurses and support staff. 10.0 CPD hours.

Course code	OBA-TRI-2026
Provider	OBA Nursing Academy
Duration	10.0 CPD hours, self-paced
Delivery	Entirely online, self-directed, through the OBA learning management system
Modules	11, plus a case study assessment and a summative assessment
Assessment	60 single-best-answer items, 80% pass mark, 2 attempts
Entry requirements	None. Content is written for a mixed audience and identifies which sections apply to each role
Outcome	Certificate of completion with a unique certificate identifier
Version	1.0, issued 19/09/2026, review due 19/09/2027

Who should enrol

- Registered nurses working towards, or newly appointed to, a triage role in an emergency department - for whom this is the theory that sits underneath ETEK and supervised practice
- Emergency department nurses who are not yet triage-trained, and who need to understand the scale they are working inside every shift
- Internationally qualified nurses, for whom the Australasian Triage Scale is usually entirely new - it is not the Manchester scale they may have trained on, and the differences matter
- Medical officers, including interns and residents rotating through emergency, who are governed by ATS timeframes without often being taught them

- Urgent care centre, rural and remote, and single-nurse-post clinicians who triage without an emergency department around them
- Nurses in general practice, aged care and community settings who make urgency decisions by telephone or at a front desk and have never been given a framework for it
- Student nurses, educators and quality staff who need to read waiting time data honestly

What you will cover

Module	Title	Hours
00	Orientation: How This Course Works	0.5
01	What Triage Is, and What It Is Not	0.8
02	The Australasian Triage Scale	0.5
03	The Triage Assessment: A Systematic Approach	0.8
04	Categories 1 and 2: the Time-Critical End	0.5
05	Categories 3, 4 and 5: Where Most Patients Are	0.5
06	Pain, and the Humane Practice Clauses	0.5
07	Mental Health and Behavioural Disturbance	0.5
08	Children, Older People and Pregnancy	0.5
09	Re-triage, the Waiting Room and Deterioration	0.8
10	Documentation, Audit and Safety at Triage	0.8

How you will learn

1. Watch the narrated module video.
2. Read the Student Learner Guide for that module.
3. Complete the reflective workbook activity.
4. Complete the knowledge check and read the rationales.
5. Move to the next module when the system unlocks it.

What this course is, and is not

SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND CURRENCY

• This programme is professional development. It is not a qualification and it does not authorise any learner to perform triage. ACEM's G24 states that triage is carried out by staff members who are BOTH SPECIFICALLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED, and it names the Emergency Triage Education Kit as the nationally recognised educational resource for the role. Completing this course is not completing ETEK, and neither is a substitute for your own department's training, supervised practice and assessment. Where an organisation's policy is more restrictive than this course, the organisation's policy applies.

- The Australasian Triage Scale, its clinical descriptors, treatment acuity times and performance indicator thresholds are quoted from ACEM G24 V6 (November 2023) and P06 V5 (November 2023), retrieved 19/09/2026. CHECK THE VERSION ON THE DOCUMENT ITSELF: the file names in ACEM's own URLs read 'Jul-16' and 'Jul-13-v04' while the documents are the November 2023 revisions. Age-specific paediatric vital sign ranges, local escalation contacts, departmental streaming and fast-track criteria, and any medicine dose are NOT stated in this course - they come from your own observation charts, policies and prescribing references.