

Patient Classification Risk Levels

The primary goal of emergency planning is the provision of quality care while maximizing available resources. To support this goal we have included information on an important patient classification system which could be used to satisfy patient roster identification requirements.

Under such a system, patients are, in effect, categorized for “triage” according to their need of services, (see figure 2) helping your agency determine how to stretch valuable staff and resources during an emergency event to ensure that the most vulnerable patients get the assistance they need. In addition, it allows for easy identification of high risk patients to communicate needs to your local emergency manager.

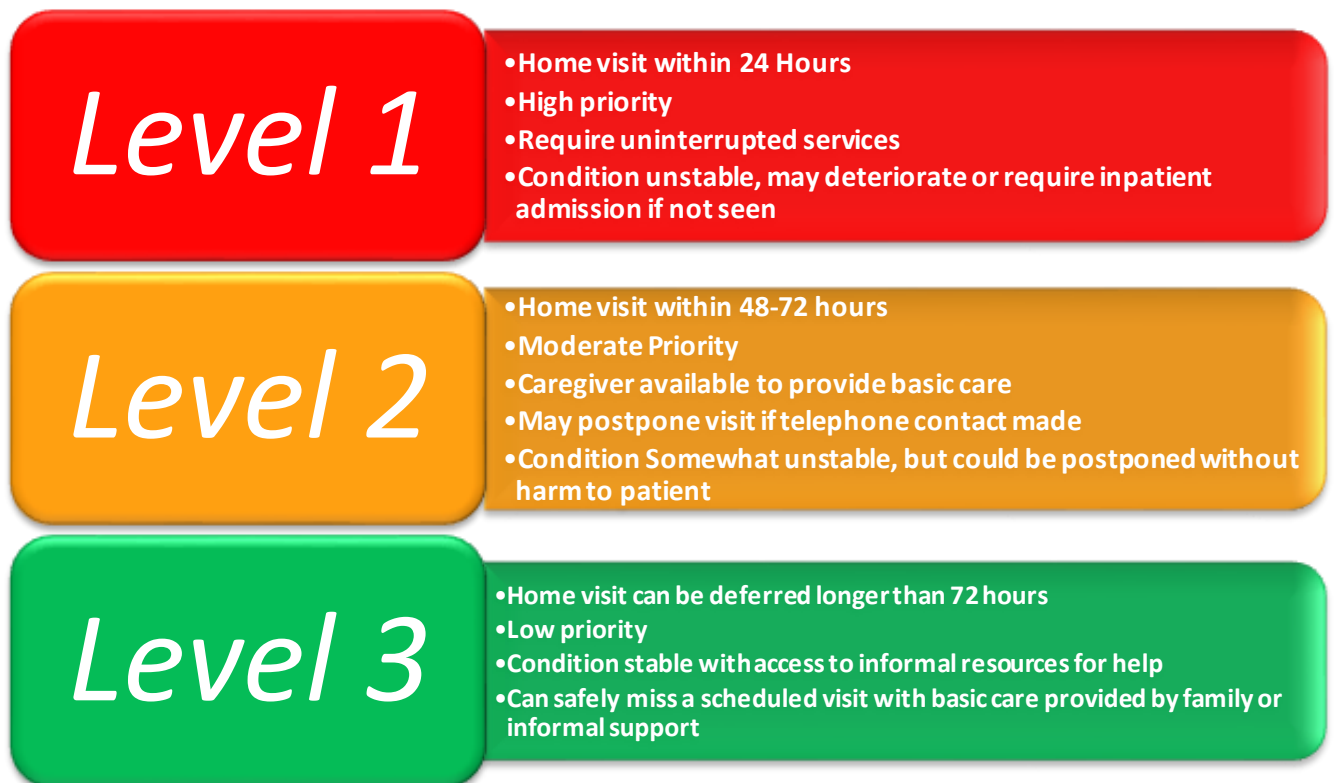


Figure 1

These classifications levels are an important part of the emergency plan and should be included in the patient rosters maintained in accordance with your emergency plan.

Examples of the type of patient to classify at each level are:

Examples of level 1

- *No caregiver/support in the home or readily accessible support and cannot be left alone for extended period of time*
- *Bedbound; paralyzed; ventilator dependent; unable to meet physiologic & safety needs*
- *Daily insulin-dependent diabetic, unable to self-administer; not well regulated*
- *Fresh wound or extensive wound care, no support/assistance*
- *Infusion therapy requiring daily visits*
- *Apnea monitoring*

Examples of level 2

- *Uses assistive device – wheelchair, walker; able to manage alone for period of time up to 24-48 hours*
- *Equipment used PRN – O₂, suctioning, nebulization, PCA pump*
- *Diabetic, self-administers insulin; requires skilled monitoring of blood glucose less than every 24 hours*
- *Extensive wound care, with support/backup assistance*
- *Cardiac / Respiratory with multiple medication changes in the past 1-2 weeks*

Examples of level 3

- *Able to manage alone for more than 72 hours; significant others or available support systems in place*
- *Mobile; independent functioning*
- *Uncomplicated routine wound care*
- *Self-manages medications/diet*

Level 1 patients will be flagged with an asterisk ().*