

Patient Screening and Prioritization Case Study

Scenario: You are the dietetic intern at the Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit (BPTU) of a British Columbia hospital. It is 9 a.m. and you have printed the patient census for May 21, 2014. Your preceptor assigns you these seven patients.

Patient Census 05/21/14

Name	Admission Date	Age	M/F	Diagnosis	Chart Notes	Diet Order
Mrs. A	05/19/14	65 yrs	F	Fractured hip	Fell while taking a shower; post-operative; stable	Regular
Mr. B	05/16/14	28 yrs	M	Abdominal gunshot wound	Post-operative - received emergency surgery to repair wound; has an ileus	NPO
Ms. C	05/20/14	51 yrs	F	Fractured ankle	Stable	Diabetic
Ms. D	05/18/14	32 yrs	F	30% TBSA*, deep partial thickness burn in head, neck and arms; closed head injury	Motor vehicle crash; not eating due to low level of consciousness	High Protein, High Calorie
Mr. E	05/21/14	40 yrs	M	10% TBSA*, deep partial thickness burn in lower extremities bilaterally	Workplace accident, hot oil spill	Regular
Mr. F	05/19/14	71 yrs	M	Ischemic stroke	Stable	Pureed
Mr. G	05/20/14	24 yrs	M	Fractured mandible	Hockey player, fractured jaw during a fight; pre-operative	Clear Fluids

*TBSA= Total Body Surface Area

Questions:

1. What information from the census would you consider when prioritizing?
2. Which patients are of highest priority? Which patients are of lower priority? Why?
3. In what order would you prioritize all the patients?