Assessment and Reassessment of the Emergency Department Patient

	Initial Assessment	Ongoing reassessment minimum	Minimum stable reassessment minimum	Frequent reassessments (Every 1-30 min.)	Beginning of shift assessment	Discharge or transfer VS	Patient transport (Nurse escort)
Patient requiring Cardiac monitoring	•Primary and secondary assessment	Every hour	Minimum of every 4 hours based on patient's condition and physician order	•When VS are not within expected limits of the patient's baseline •Following the administration of medication with the potential to alter VS such as narcotics or anti-arrhythmic •Following any intervention or procedure that has the potential to alter patient status such as IV bolus or invasive procedures •**Any** deteriorating change in patient status.	•Head to toe •VS •Lines/tubes/infusions •Rhythm strip - analyzed •Plan	VS within 1 hour Follow safe discharge policy	Minimum every 15 minutes, more frequent based on patient condition Focused Plus*
Non-Cardiac monitoring	•Primary and secondary assessment	Every 2 hours			•Head to toe or Focused •Plus* •Lines/tubes/infusions •Plan	VS within 1 hour Follow safe discharge policy	Hourly Focused
Meets Minor Treatment Criteria	•Focused •Plus * -Pain -Level of consciousness -skin -Vital Signs (VS) -Respiratory status/Airway	Every 4 hours			•Focused •Plus* •Plan	Patients treated for minor conditions and who have normal vital signs documented may not need Complete Vital Signs within one (1) hour of discharge (e.g. lacerations).	Not Applicable (N/A)

Assess, identify problems, set problem specific goal/objective for patient, address interventions to alleviate problem, re-evaluate.

Assessment Frameworks.

Primary and secondary assessment - A-airway, B-breathing, C-circulation, D-disability, E-expose, F-focused/critical actions, G-give comfort measures, H-history and head to toe, I-inspect posterior

Focused Assessment - A highly specific assessment, focusing on the system or systems involved in the patient's entrance complaint, history and level of distress.

Plus* - Vital Signs (VS), Pain, Level of consciousness (LOC), Skin, Respiratory status/airway

Ongoing Reassessment - An ongoing, focused, chronological assessment of patient status which includes vital signs, physical assessments, pain assessment and scale, treatments administered and responses to treatment(s) and ongoing plan of care.