

CRITCON levels

Please declare CRITCON level and for CRITCON 1, 2 or 3 the staffing level A or B

SECONDARY CARE (including Acute, Specialist & Foundation Trusts etc)	
DEFINITION	STATUS
NORMAL - 'Business as usual'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal, able to meet all critical care needs, without impact on other services. • Normal winter levels of non-clinical transfer and other 'overflow' activity. 	CRITCON 0
LOW SURGE - 'Bad winter'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical care capacity full. Some non-clinical transfers. 	CRITCON 1
MEDIUM SURGE - 'Unprecedented'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical care capacity full - overflow into quasi-critical care areas (theatre recovery, other acute care areas). High level of non-clinical transfers. • Trusts beginning mutual aid and phased reduction of elective work to support critical care, by local decision. • When significant number of Trusts declare CRITCON 2, SHA/NCB to consider co-ordinated action. 	CRITCON 2
HIGH SURGE - 'Full stretch'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion into non-critical care areas, and/or use of adult facilities for paediatric critical care. Trust operating at or near maximum physical capacity. • Elective surgery and medical procedures minimised to urgent/cancer and lifesaving only. Maximum mutual aid between Trusts, with SHA/NCB co-ordination. • The prime imperative in CRITCON 3 is to prevent any single Trust entering CRITCON 4. 	CRITCON 3
TRIAGE - 'Last resort'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources overwhelmed. Possibility of triage by resource (non-clinical refusal or withdrawal of critical care due to resource limitation). • This level must only be defined by the SHA/NCB London office – must be reviewed every 12 hours. • No Trust to begin triage <i>unless</i> all other Trusts and SHA/NCB areas are at CRITCON 3. 	CRITCON 4
Staff Declaration: CRITCON 1,2 AND 3 SHOULD BE FURTHER CATEGORISED A OR B	
Adhering to BACCN / ICS staffing recommendations or unit norm	A
Staffing below BACCN / ICS staffing recommendations or unit norm	B

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