

| Ideal Time to Surgery (iTTS) From: Decision to Operate To: Incision in OR | Non-Elective Surgery Triage (NEST) Level | Clinical Scenario Examples |
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| Immediate (within Minutes) "Break-in" to existing schedule list is required | Emergent – Code Crimson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE CRIMSON • Life-threatening airway compromise • Hemodynamic instability, for example: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bleeding traumatic emergencies b) GSW to the chest or abdomen |
| Within 1-2 Hours | Emergent 1-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viscus perforation, vascular compromise, sepsis, for example: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Limb ischemia b) Diffuse peritonitis c) Soft tissue infection with sepsis d) Abdominal compartment syndrome • Airway emergency (upper airway obstruction) • Cardiac post-op bleeding • Cardiorespiratory decompensation (severe) • Massive Bleeding • Multiple Trauma (unstable) • Mediastinal injury • Neurosurgical condition with imminent brain herniation • Neonate emergencies • Open fracture type III with massive blood loss • Testicular torsion • Acute spinal cord compression with neurologic injury • Acute penile fracture • Testicular rupture and ovarian torsion • Priapism unresponsive to conservative measures • Extremity compartment syndrome |
| Within 4 Hours | Urgent 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craniotomies/craniectomies • Abscess with sepsis • Airway (non-urgent diagnostic, flex bronch, non-symptomatic foreign body) • Appendicitis with sepsis/rapid progression • Biliary obstruction non-drainable • Cardiac ventricular assist device • Cerebral angiogram for intracranial hemorrhage • Contaminated Wounds -multiple trauma • Diagnostic therapeutic airway intervention • Major Joint Dislocation • Intestinal Obstruction - suspected vascular compromise • Strangulated hernia with suspected vascular compromise • Massive soft tissue injury • Neurosurgical condition unstable • Obstructed Kidney with sepsis • Open fracture type III without major bleeding • Progressive shunt malfunction |

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| Within 8 Hours | Urgent 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abscess drainage • Epidural abscess • Appendicitis – stable • Acute Cholecystitis - sepsis • Caustic ingestion • Emergency Cerclage (cervical) • Chronic airway foreign bodies • Esophageal body without airway symptoms • Hematuria with clot retention • I & D abscess without septicemia • Joint aspiration or bone biopsy prior to antibiotic therapy • Nephrostomy tube placement • Obstructed kidney without sepsis • Open fracture type I-II • Septic joint |
| Within 12 Hours | Urgent 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowel obstruction • Localized peritonitis or soft tissue infection in need of surgery • Closed reduction • Eyelid / canalicular lacerations • Facial nerve decompression • Femoral neck fracture • Mastoidectomy • Open reduction of fracture • Retinopathy of prematurity treatment • Unstable slipped capital femoral epiphysis |
| Within 24 Hours | Work-in 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Cholecystitis – no sepsis • Colostomy • Debridement • Geriatric hip fractures |
| Within 48 Hours | Work-in 48 | |
| Within 72 Hours | Work-in 72 | |