**Treatment Approach**

Prior to dental triage, patients will complete a limited medical assessment. It is important for the physicians and nurses working in medical triage to identify patients with:

* Serious medical conditions, medications or other issues that may interfere with or prevent dental treatment.
* Infections
* The need for antibiotics prior to dental treatment.
* The need for immediate medical treatment that cannot be provided onsite.

Patients in consultation with the triage dentist and/or the dentist reviewing X-rays will rank the top treatment priorities. Clinical dentists should focus treatment efforts on the first priority but can use their professional judgment to determine if time allows for additional procedures such as treatment within the same quadrant.

The priority guidelines for treatment are:

* Providing dental treatment to relieve pain and infection
* Providing dental treatment specific to a medical condition (e.g., prophylaxis for patients with diabetes or advanced periodontitis)
* Extracting teeth that cannot be restored in a limited amount of time (e.g., 45 minutes). *Patients will receive a list of community dental care resources upon exiting the clinic.*
* Restoring teeth when appropriate and time permits (e.g., pulp caps may not be appropriate treatment at this event as we do not know whether the patient will seek the recommended follow-up care)
* Performing endodontic procedures on anterior teeth
* Recommending X-rays only as needed or appropriate based on the professional judgment of the triage dentist rather than for routine screening purposes
  + For extractions, restorations and endodontics, X-rays should be taken, as deemed appropriate, in the general X-ray area.
* Focusing dental hygiene on debridement of gross calculus
* Providing routine prophylaxis for patients without immediate dental treatment needs if the hygiene department coordinator indicates available space and time

Following treatment, patients will also receive:

* Post-operative care instructions with a toll-free number to call if they are experiencing problems with the care they received at the clinic
* Community resources for follow-up care or additional treatment
* Information regarding available government programs
* Oral health counseling for each patient and their family members
* An opportunity to provide feedback about the care they received at the event