# ESI FAQ

**What is the purpose of the ESI Handbook?**
This handbook is intended as a guide to using the ESI system for categorizing patients at triage in ED settings.

**Why is the ESI handbook being updated?**
The latest handbook has been reorganized and simplified to better explain each decision point within the algorithm.

**What is *not* changing with the revisions to the handbook and course?**
- The algorithm and 5-level triage acuity scale. ESI is valid and reliable when properly applied to each patient. There now is clarity around each decision point.
- The fundamentals of ESI

**What updates are reflected in the revised ESI Handbook, 5th Edition?**
- Updated research on patient presentations, high-risk patients and vital signs
- Clarifying language on the algorithm to prevent misinterpretations
- Detailed explanations for each decision point
- Updated pediatric vitals and hypothermic temperatures
- Addition of evidence on how racism, bias and stigmas can lead to inaccurate triage decisions

**What updates are reflected in the revised ESI 2.0 online course?**
- Updated knowledge check reflecting the updates in the handbook
- New and revised case examples
- Brand-new post course exam to test the learner's application of ESI
- Course enhancements for a seamless online experience
- Earn up to 5 contact hours
- New exam structure

**Why were the chapters on implementation removed from the Handbook?**
There were too many opportunities for different interpretations. Implementation is covered in ENA's ESI 2.0 course and Triage Curriculum.

**Why were case scenarios removed?**
While ESI is a reliable and validated triage acuity scale, studies found the case scenarios that previously existed in the implementation portion indicated a need for an update to the scenarios. When nurses were tested on their application of the ESI utilizing the case scenarios, there was a 59% accuracy (Jordi et al., 2015; Mistry et al., 2018).* The ESI 2.0 online course will help improve the accuracy.

**Will I be ready to work in triage after reading the handbook or taking the course?**
The handbook does not provide comprehensive triage training. It is best used in conjunction with comprehensive triage education such as ESI 2.0 Course and Triage Curriculum.

**Is there a cost associated with using ESI Handbook?**
The ESI Handbook has been, and continues to be, free to access by anyone. These resources are available by visiting ena.org/ESI.

**What is the difference between this course and ESI 2.0 course?**
This course includes the same information as ESI 2.0 with the addition of pediatric specific knowledge checks, introduction to pediatric triage assessment, and pediatric specific exam questions.

ESI Pediatric 2.0 course provides health care professionals who are new to ESI or new to pediatric emergency nursing with a strong foundation and comprehensive review of the core principles of the ESI triage system as it relates to the pediatric patient.

**Is there a Spanish version available?**
Spanish, German and Polish translations will be available later this year.

**How much does the ESI 2.0 online course cost?**
$40 for ENA members, $50 for nonmembers

**How do I get a group discount?**
You can contact groupsales@ena.org for more information on group pricing.

**If I have questions about ESI, who do I contact?**
For questions related to this ESI course, you may contact enau@ena.org

**I already know and use ESI, why should I take the course?**
This online course supports emergency nurses to further understand the Emergency Severity Index. It guides nurses to better identify patients who should be seen first, while prioritizing the care of patients with less emergent conditions. A well-implemented ESI program assists emergency departments in the rapid identification of patients in need of immediate attention and trains emergency nurses in the decision-making skills that lead to improved patient outcomes.

*Jordi, K., Grossmann, F., Gaddis, G. M., Cignacco, E., Denhaerynck, K., Schwendimann, R., & Nickel, C. H. (2015). Nurses' accuracy and self-perceived ability using the emergency severity index triage tool: A cross-sectional study in four Swiss hospitals. Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine, 23(1). https://doi.org/10.1186/s13049-015-0142-y

Mistry, B., Balhara, K. S., Hinson, J. S., Anton, X., Othman, I. Y., E'nouz, M. A., Avila, N. A., Henry, S., Levin, S., & De Ramirez, S. S. (2018). Nursing perceptions of the emergency severity index as a triage

tool in the United Arab Emirates: A qualitative analysis. Journal of Emergency Nursing, 44(4), 360–367. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jen.2017.10.012