

Table 1 Australian Triage Scale (ATS) categories, their descriptors and treatment acuity

ATS category	Description of category	Treatment acuity
1	Immediately life-threatening	Immediate
2	Immediately life-threatening	Minutes (< 10 min)
3	Important time-critical intervention; potentially life-threatening; situational urgency	0.5 hours
4	Potentially serious; situational urgency; significant complexity or severity	1 hour
5	Less urgent; clinic-administrative problems	2 hours