

Appendix 1

List of patient characteristics included in a modified Delphi consensus exercise and their plausible answers.

Patient Characteristic	Parameter Specification
Age, years	18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105 Other
Sex	Only male Only female
Triage Acuity, CTAS (27)	1 – Resuscitation 2 – Emergent 3 – Urgent 4 – Less Urgent 5 – Non-Urgent
Main Diagnostic Category, ICD-10 ^{a,b}	Endocrine, nutrition and metabolic disorders Mental and behavioural disorders Diseases of the nervous system Diseases of the circulatory system Diseases of the respiratory system Diseases of the digestive system Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue Diseases of the genitourinary system Diseases of the blood involving immune system Diseases of the eye, adnexa, ear and mastoid process Traumatic injuries (consequences of external causes) Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings Factors influencing health status and contact with health services Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium Conditions originated in the perinatal period Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities Infectious diseases Morbidity and mortality Neoplasms and cancer
Comorbidities ^c	Hypertension Diabetes Asthma Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Rheumatoid arthritis Bowel disease Cancer
Specialist Consult Performed in ED	Include only visits that received a specialist consult in the ED Include only visits that did not receive a specialist consult in the ED
Outcome of ED Visit	Discharged

	Admitted to hospital Transfer to another acute care facility directly from ED Left after triage, no medical assessment
Time from Triage to ED Outcome	Less than 30 minutes Less than 1 hour Less than 1.5 hours Less than 2 hours Less than 2.5 hours Less than 3 hours
Return to ED within 30 Days or Less, days	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 Should not have returned within 30 days of initial ED visit
<p>Note: CTAS = Canadian Acuity and Triage Scale, ED = emergency department</p> <p>^a International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision, categorized by diagnostic chapter.</p> <p>^b Represents primary diagnosis category of emergency department visit.</p> <p>^c Diagnosed diseases prior to ED visit.</p>	