The following statement clarifies the position on those staff who are eligible to be trained and use The Manchester Triage System:

MTS a professional system

- The Manchester Triage System (MTS) was developed solely for registered Health Care Professionals (HCPs) due to the clinical skills and knowledge, required to assess needs and plan care, when performing a triage assessment. MTG will not support organisations allowing the use of MTS by staff who are non-HCPs (staff below Band 5 UK or international equivalent). In any medical negligence proceedings where the court requests evidence, MTG will send a letter to this effect.

Rationale for the statement:

It is important to clarify MTGs position on those staff eligible to be trained and use MTS.

There is increasing challenge to dumb down the level of staff who perform triage to that of support levels including Band 4 Nursing Associates and even Band 3 Health Care Support Workers.

Nursing Associates (NAs) are a support role within healthcare and whilst they are regulated, on their own part of the NMC register, they are not comparable to Registered Nurses and AHP's.

According to the NMC

"Nursing associates work with people of all ages, in a variety of settings in health and social care. The role contributes to the core work of nursing, freeing up registered nurses to focus on more complex clinical care." https://www.nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/who-we-regulate/nursing-associates/

Triage is one of the most pressured and difficult roles within emergency and urgent care and as such is best suited to experienced / senior Nurses or AHPs. The role of triage is classed as complex clinical care and requires high levels of clinical decision making skills and the ability to assess needs, plan and evaluate care. It is important to note that assessing needs and planning care (which is exactly what Triage is designed to do) are platforms of proficiency for registered nurses but not for NA's.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has summarised its standards of proficiency for both the registered nurse and nursing associate role as shown in the table below: