ASSESSMENT OF STRESS DUE TO INSTANTANEOUS WORKLOAD

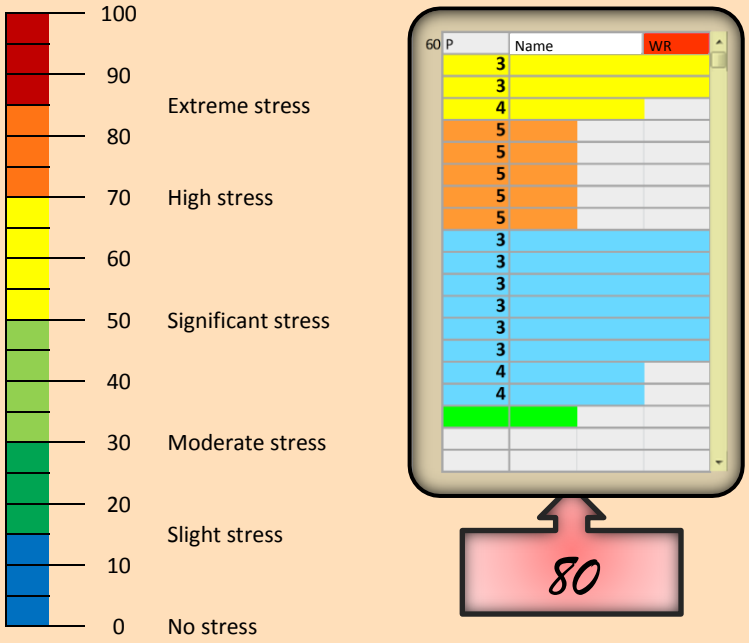
The following survey evaluates the **stress** perceived by physicians due to their assigned **workload at a given time**, which is called the **instantaneous workload**. An instantaneous workload is considered the **set of pending patients a doctor has been assigned simultaneously** – distinguishing their priority, as well as the **medical attention phase** of the patients– and his/her training responsibility.

To carry out this assessment, physicians will be presented several scenarios of different pending workloads associated to a physician in the same way as the patients' portfolio of the emergency department computer. This board lets physicians be aware of all the pending patients they have been assigned to them as patients are triaged and then immediately assigned to a specific physician as they arrive at the Emergency Department. The following colour code is used:

Priority	Name	WoutR / WR
3, 4, 5	Patients waiting to be seen for the first time.	
3, 4, 5	Patients waiting to be seen for the first time, they have exceeded the waiting time limit.	
3, 4, 5	Patients who have already been seen by the doctor, who have requested medical tests. These patients are still inside the ED system waiting for results and being discharge.	
3, 4, 5	Patients who have received the medical discharge, but remain in the emergency department waiting to be transferred to the hospital, home, etc. In case of these patients to get worse, the assigned physician is still responsible for your care	

Patients who have been discharged and have left the system are not considered as pending workload.

What follows is a set of scenarios which show several patients a doctor has been assigned at a specific moment of his/her work-shift, and whether ***the shift*** he/she is working does or does not ***involve the supervision of a first-year resident*** (indicated in the red colour at the top right corner of the computer screen represented above. The experts should assess the perceived stress associated to each scenario. This will involve that experts give a score between 0 and 100, helped by the qualitative scale described below.



Scenario:
The physician has been assigned three patients whose waiting time limit has been exceeded (two of priority 3 and one of priority 4). In addition, there are also five patients with minimum severity index (5) to be seen, and eight patients (six with priority 3) to receive a second consultation and be discharged. Moreover, there is a patient who has got his/her ED process finished but who is waiting to be transferred to another hospital or home. Finally, he has to supervise a resident.

Physician's Stress Assessment:
If the physician considers that the stress produced by the workload assigned in his/her patients' portfolio is very high, he/she could assess the stress situation with a score of 80.

***** Note: There are no correct or incorrect ratings. You are asked to provide a subjective assessment of the stress due to workload assigned to the physician at a given point in the work shift.***