Emergency Department Adult Upper GI Bleed Triage Guideline Using the Glasgow Blatchford Score

For initial risk stratification and possible early discharge.
This is a guideline and does not replace clinical judgement.

Very Low Risk

Glasgow Blatchford score of 0 or 1:

- Mortality and urgent need for endoscopy is low in this group.
- Consider discharge and outpatient GI follow up if no other medical conditions require hospitalization.

Low Risk

Glasgow Blatchford score of 2:

- Requires GI consultation, may be done over the phone.
- Discharge may be considered after GI consultation if the patient is hemodynamically stable with no ongoing bleeding, no stigmata of liver disease, has social support, and access to a medical facility.

Non-Low Risk

Glasgow Blatchford score of 3 or higher:

- Need for intervention and monitoring is high and inpatient admission should be strongly considered.

- *Do not use if the patient is admitted for another cause or developed GI bleeding after admission.*
- *Adult patients only.*
- *Liver disease –functionally defined as:*
  - *Cirrhosis (known or suspected) – platelet count < 150, splenomegaly*
  - *Alcoholic hepatitis – discriminate function > 32, AST:ALT ratio >2, alcohol use in the past 4 weeks, and cholestasis without biliary disease*
  - *Other reason to suspect portal hypertension which could lead to a variceal bleed*

Glasgow Blatchford References:

1. Kowdley KV, Irani S. ACP Journal Club. The Glasgow-Blatchford Bleeding Score identified patients with upper GI bleeding who could be managed as outpatients. Ann Intern Med. 2009 May 19;150(10):JC5-14. PMID: 19451570

2.Blatchford O, Murray WR, Blatchford M. A risk score to predict need for treatment for upper-gastrointestinal haemorrhage. Lancet. 2000 Oct 14;356(9238):1318-21. PMID: 11073021

3.Stanley AJ, Ashley D, Dalton HR, et. al. Outpatient management of patients with low-risk upper-gastrointestinal haemorrhage: multicentre validation and prospective evaluation. Lancet. 2009 Jan 3;373(9657):42-7. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(08)61769-9. Epub 2008 Dec 16. PMID: 19091393