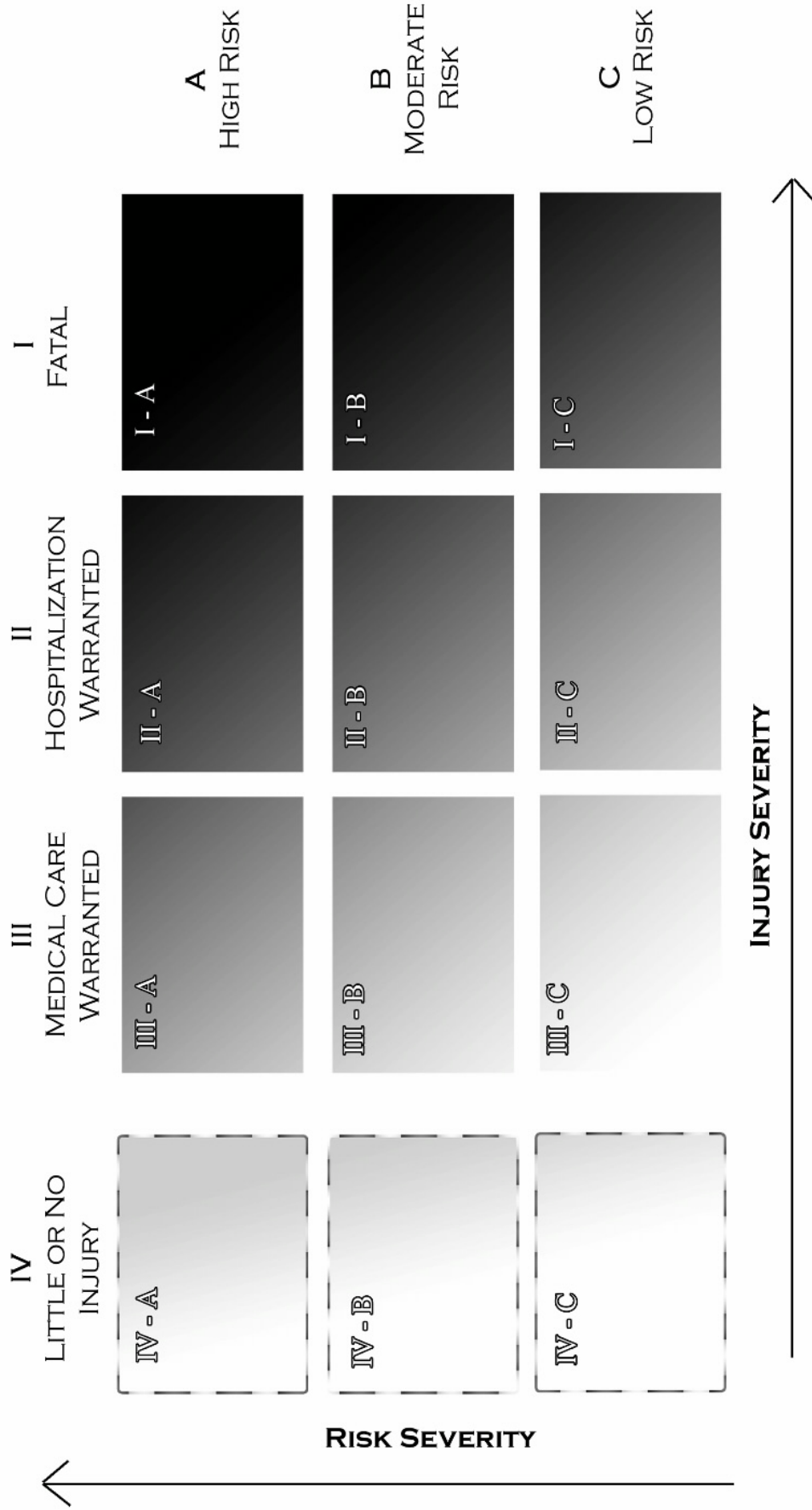


MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATION OF FATAL AND SEVERE CHILD INJURIES

Assessment for possible child abuse and neglect



CONTINUUM OF SUSPICION

NONE SLIGHT SCREEN SHOULD REVIEW DEFINITE

EXPLANATION OF GRAPHIC (See Reverse Side)

The attached graphic outlines intake possibilities, considering both the severity of injury and the severity of risk in the child's environment.

Terms defined

Injury Severity – The extent of damage, tissue involved and level of care that were or should have been provided.

Risk Severity – As explained by multiple factors in the environment and literature on what injuries could indicate.

Case examples illustrated by the graphic

I-A) Child homicide perpetrated by father in a violent family is witnessed

I-B) Infant suffocation that may have been an intentional overlay

I-C) Motor vehicle death with safe driving and child restraints

II-A) Infant with unexplained severe head trauma and intoxicated parents

II-B) Toddler under Child Protective Services jurisdiction hospitalized for near drowning in bathtub

III- A) Ten-month-old with poor nutrition brought to Emergency Department with new and old rib fractures attributed to a toddler sibling

IV-A) No injury, but a homicidal/suicidal mother is with a violent male

Case intake by protocol can filter the total intake for investigation. At the least, initial intake should include all cases in cells II- A / B that were or could have been reported as abuse or neglect. Screening might be done by an injury investigation team or by other teams, including hospital SCAN, Child Assessment Center or Child Death Review.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this document. Please contact Michael Durfee, M.D. at michaeld55@aol.com or phone: 1 (626) 455-4585