



# University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT  
GalwayEM.ie

## Upper GI Bleeds

(<https://galwayem.ie/guidelines/medical-emergencies/upper-gi-bleeds>)

Category

Medical Emergencies (<https://galwayem.ie/guidelines/medical-emergencies>)

**History** - please note:

- Co-morbidities especially CCF, IHD, renal, malignancy
- Presence or absence of chronic liver disease
- Alcohol use
- Medications including anticoagulants and NSAIDs

**Examination** – please note specifically: Postural BP drop Rectal examination findings

**Please calculate and record Blatchford Score (see below)**

**Investigate:** FBC, U&E, LFTs, clotting studies, Group and save / cross match

**Cross match:**

6 units: ?variceal bleed

4 units: fresh melaena on PR, postural drop >15mm Hg, Syst BP <100 mm Hg

G&S: All others

**Treatment**

- IV access, iv fluids. Patients with cirrhosis should receive ceftriaxone 1g iv.
- Nil by mouth
- Consider urinary catheter
- Seek senior advice if patient > 60 years, tachycardic, postural hypotension or hypotensive.

**Admission**

- **Stable upper GI bleeds** will be admitted under **medicine** unless by agreement with the surgical and gastroenterology teams.

- **Unstable upper GI bleeds** (systolic BP < 100 on more than 2 occasions or HR >100 after 1l fluid iv) will be admitted under **surgery**.

Image

([https://galwayem.ie/home/galwayem\\_live/galwayem/web/sites/default/files/images/Blatchford.png](https://galwayem.ie/home/galwayem_live/galwayem/web/sites/default/files/images/Blatchford.png))

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