

When to go to the Emergency Room

Go to the Emergency Room for serious health problems that can cause lasting injury or death.

- **Call 911 or go to the emergency room** if there is a bad injury, sudden illness or an illness that is quickly getting much worse.

The only time you should go to the emergency room is when you have a real emergency.



Be ready for a real emergency...

- Ask your doctor's office for a number to call after hours. Use this number if your problem is serious, but not life-threatening—like your child throwing up. Calling your Patient 1st doctor or clinic first may reduce the time you have to wait if your doctor sends you to the ER.

Your doctor must okay your emergency room visit. And, if your health problem is not a real emergency, you may have to pay for the ER visit.

When not to go to the Emergency Room

Do not go to the Emergency Room if you have a cold or any other health problem that your doctor can take care of in his or her office.

Do not go to the Emergency Room if you are going to the emergency room because you can't get a ride to your doctor's office.

Call **1-800-362-1504** for help with a ride to your doctor's office.



If you're not sure...call your doctor

If you are not sure what to do, call your doctor's office. Your Patient 1st personal doctor (or a qualified person chosen by your doctor) can be reached by telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.