

BEFORE YOU TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM

When you or your child is sick sometimes it is hard to know if you need to go to the emergency room immediately, make an appointment for a sick visit, or if you can deal with the health condition at home.

Your first idea can be to take your child to the emergency room at the first sign or symptom of a disease, but it is not a good idea to go directly to the nearest emergency room without good information.

An unnecessary trip to emergency room can result in several hours waiting for medical attention if it is not a real emergency. For many emergency rooms a medical emergency is defined as a health condition that needs to be treated within 15 minutes to save a patient's life.

Emergency rooms do not work in a first come first serve basis; they operate attending the most medically compromised patients first.



If your child is not feeling well in the middle of the night, there are options that you can consider. Many local emergency departments have a nurse for phone consultations. The nurse can provide you advice or reassurance. She can tell

you if you or your child is facing a real emergency that requires an immediate visit.

If your child has any of the health conditions contact you child’s physician, usually a sick visit to the hospital or rest at home can treat them.

- Fever
- Rash
- Cough
- Common Colds
- Flu
- Minor body aches
- Minor wounds
- Asthma attack

