

When to use the

EMERGENCY ROOM



**COMMUNITY HEALTH
ACCESS TEAM (CHAT)**
A GOAL WORK GROUP OF BUFFALO COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS*

WHEN SHOULD I VISIT THE EMERGENCY ROOM?

If you have a sudden illness or injury, you need to decide how serious it is and how quickly you need to be seen by a medical provider. If your symptoms are life threatening, you should call 911 or go to the emergency room right away.

Signs of an Emergency:

- Severe bleeding that cannot be stopped with pressure
- Weakness in an arm or leg, speech, or sudden drooping
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Sudden onset of confusion
- Sudden onset of vision problems
- New seizures (lasting 3-5 minutes)
- Any type of chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Sudden severe pain
- Fainting
- Poisoning



WHEN SHOULD I CALL OR VISIT MY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER?

Non-Emergency Illnesses that Can Be Treated in a Doctor's Office:

- Earaches
- Minor cuts
- Colds, sore throat, or flu symptoms
- Fever (if you are convulsing)
- Sting or bite from an insect
- Rash, sunburn, or minor burn
- Sexually transmitted disease (STD)



THIS LIST IS INTENDED TO BE USED AS A GUIDELINE AND IS NOT MEANT TO BE ALL-INCLUSIVE. CONSULT WITH YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

WHY SHOULDN'T I USE THE EMERGENCY ROOM?

Services you cannot get in the emergency room:

- Ongoing care
- Medication refills for ongoing illness
- Care management

Benefits of having a primary care provider:

- Help you get preventative care
- Guide you to feeling better
- Give you personalized health advice
- Manage ongoing illness (asthma, diabetes, etc.)

