

# When to go to the Hospital Emergency Room

**Call 911 or go to the hospital immediately if your child:**

- Stops breathing or struggles to breathe
- Loses consciousness
- Has severe choking
- Almost drowns
- Is severely burned
- Is bleeding from a serious injury
- Has an obvious broken bone
- Has a convulsion for the first time
- Has a serious eye injury
- Has a life-threatening condition



***Hospital emergency rooms are for people with life-threatening emergencies—heart attacks, strokes, auto accidents, and other serious conditions that threaten a person's life or part of the body.***



Unless you are having a true emergency, please **FIRST** call your clinic or doctor. Describe the problem. There is always someone on-call to give medical advice and help decide the medical care your child needs.

When you call **FIRST**, you might avoid:

- An unneeded trip to the Emergency Room
- A long wait to see an emergency doctor
- Exposing yourself and your child to seriously ill people.



**In case of possible  
Poisoning, call the  
Poison Control Center at  
1-800-222-1222**



# Going to your regular clinic or doctor . . .

Call your clinic or doctor if you are worried because your child has:



- Constipation
- Rash
- Sore throat
- Pink eye
- Ear ache
- Sprain
- Runny nose and congestion
- Fever lasting more than a couple of days (except babies less than 2 months—they should go directly to the Emergency Room)
- Other conditions that can be treated in the doctor's office



Call your clinic or doctor for urgent conditions:



- Your child seems very ill
- Animal bite
- Burns that are large or that blister or break the skin
- Deep cut
- Persistent or increasing pain
- Possible fracture or broken bone
- Severe vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Tooth pain—your doctor can refer you to a dentist if you don't have one



Call your clinic or doctor about the problem.  
Describe the problem.

There is **always** someone on-call  
if you are concerned about your child's health.

Remember that your child  
should have regular well-child  
exams and immunizations!