ABOUT THE EMERGENCY ROOM

In 2011, there were approximately 136.3 million emergency room visits in the U.S.¹

The most common reason people went to the emergency room was stomach and abdominal pain.²

The average cost of an emergency room visit is $1,423.³

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL 9-1-1?

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Any symptoms of a heart attack including chest pain, pain in the left arm or the jaw, sudden weakness or dizziness
- Signs of a stroke such as slurred speech, severe headache, weakness or numbness on one side of the face or body, or loss of consciousness
- Life- or limb-threatening injury

WHEN SHOULD YOU GO TO THE ER?

- Broken bones and dislocated joints
- Deep cuts that require stitches – especially on the face
- Head or eye injuries
- Severe flu or cold symptoms
- Sudden change in mental state
- High fevers
- Fevers with rash
- Fevers in infants
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Severe pain, particularly in the abdomen or starting halfway down the back
- Bleeding that won’t stop or a large open wound
- Vaginal bleeding with pregnancy
- Repeated vomiting
- Serious burns
- Seizures without a previous diagnosis of epilepsy

WHEN SHOULD YOU GO TO URGENT CARE?

- Symptom onset is gradual
- You already know the diagnosis but are unable to get a same-day appointment with your primary care physician
- Conditions that are not life- or limb-threatening, but require immediate care
- Sprains
- Sore throat
- Urinary tract infections
- Mild asthma
- Rash without fever
- Broken bones of the wrist, hand, ankle or foot that have no obvious need to reset and have not broken the skin

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IF IN DoubT, GET EMERGENCY CARE!