

Do I Need to Go to the Emergency Room?

Use good judgment in deciding when to use emergency medical services.

- Emergency Rooms are not set up to care for routine illnesses
- They do not work on a first-come, first-served basis.
- During busy times, people with minor illnesses may wait for hours.
- Your records are usually not available, so emergency room doctors usually have no information about your medical history or medications.
- Whenever you feel you can apply home treatment safely and wait to see your regular doctor, do so.

In life-threatening situations, modern emergency services are vital.

- If you believe your situation is life threatening and requires urgent care, by all means go to the emergency department.
- Take your medications with you.

If you aren't sure if you should go to the Emergency Room:

- Call your doctor's office, even if it's after hours. The answering service will have the on-call doctor to call you back.
- Call the APS Healthcare Nurse Advice Line @ 1-866-220-1747