

Your Partner in Health

Meeting Your Emergency Needs - When to go to the Emergency Center

Each year, more than 40,000 visits are made to our Emergency Center. As a fully equipped Emergency Center with stateof-the-art equipment and emergency-certified staff, Port Huron Hospital is the busiest and most experienced in the county.

For conditions such as heart attack or stroke, it's always important to call 911 immediately so emergency responders can start care before you reach the hospital. But, what constitutes a visit to the Emergency Center for illnesses and injuries that are non-life threatening?

As your partner in health, we are committed to partnering with our community to provide the best care possible in the best way possible, including sharing guidelines for signs and symptoms of minor emergencies that should be treated promptly so you can recover quickly.

Thomas DeFauw, President and Chief Executive Officer

Illnesses and injuries that may require a visit to the EMERGENCY CENTER

Most of us have been there – it's the weekend or a holiday and we're experiencing pain, an injury or an illness. What should we do? Is it appropriate to go to the Emergency Center?

According to Emergency Center Nurse Manager Holly Lotts, RN, the answer is typically yes. "The first call for a non-life threatening situation should be to your primary care provider," says Holly. "But if he or she is not available, here are some guidelines for deciding if a trip to the Emergency Center is needed."

Influenza

Minor symptoms such as a low grade fever, aches and sniffles are common flu ailments. You should seek emergency care for the following advanced flu symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing
- Chest or abdomen pain
- Severe vomiting
- Bluish skin
- Not easily awakened
- · Fever with rash

Also, if flu symptoms appear to improve, but then return with a fever or cough worse than before, seek emergency treatment.

Strains and Sprains

Sprains and strains can cause generalized swelling and pain. You need emergency care if swelling and pain is also accompanied with:

- Difficulty moving the injured area
- The injured part moves in an unnatural way
- Persistent pain while resting

"If your symptoms are similar to what's described above or worse, come to the Emergency Center. If they are less severe, always trust your instinct and seek prompt medical treatment. If it's your emergency, it's our emergency."

injured, it's difficult to wait. That's why Port taken steps to reduce wait times for minor emergencies. In the late afternoon and evening hours, patients may enter a "Fast Track" system, a model for rapid treatment for minor emergencies. Patients usually do not sit for long in the main waiting area and triage, the initial medical assessment, begins quickly.

"Reducing wait times while ensuring that resources are being utilized in the best way possible makes sense for everyone," says Holly. "It's about being effective and efficient for the patient."



When you're ill or Huron Hospital has





For more information, please visit or contact us at: