

## EMERGENCY ROOM (ER) USE

You should go to the ER when you have signs of a medical condition that could be life-threatening or could cause permanent damage if not treated right away. If you think you have a condition like this, go to the nearest ER. Call 911 if you need help getting to the ER. **If you are not sure that you are experiencing an emergency, call your primary care physician's office.** The list below shows examples of true medical emergencies and of urgent medical issues. Only go to the ER for true emergencies.

Examples for visiting the ER	Examples for visiting your PCP or the Urgent Treatment Center
Loss of consciousness, fainting	Earache
Signs of heart attack or stroke	Small cuts
Severe shortness of breath	Dog bite
Bleeding severely or uncontrollably	Sprains and strains
Sudden, constant pain	Asthma (unless life-threatening)
Head or spinal injury	Low fever
Suicidal feelings	Coughs, colds, flu
Seizures	Eye problems (infections, scratches)
Miscarriage or pregnancy with vaginal bleeding	Stomach ache
Physical attack or rape	Backache

Poisoning or drug overdose	Migraine
Severe vomiting or diarrhea that does not stop	Sore throat
Paralysis	Skin rash
Shock	Sexually Transmitted Diseases