

when should you seek emergency care?

Patients in Sequoia Hospital's award-winning emergency room (ER) are seen by a healthcare professional for triage in an average of seven to 10 minutes, says John Meharg, M.D., the department's medical director. More insights on emergency care from Dr. Meharg:

Q What common symptoms merit a trip to the ER?

A Severe or persistent chest or abdominal pain, high fever not during flu season (in children, over 102°), allergic reactions, paralysis, breathing difficulties, vomiting blood, lacerations that might need repair, and bone injuries that can be felt to be fractures. Because there are far fewer genuine emergencies in youngsters, we typically recommend that parents call their pediatrician for advice before making a trip to the ER.

Q What are ailments for which patients often seek emergency treatment but really shouldn't?

A Among the most common are viral colds and bronchitis (without fever), minor diarrhea, vomiting for only a few hours, headaches and chronic back pain.

Q What makes Sequoia Hospital's emergency care services unique?

A What makes us different is our family-oriented approach that takes the extra steps necessary to provide a comfortable and caring environment. We offer fast, easy and accessible emergency care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to southern San Mateo and northern Santa Clara counties. As always, we accept all patients regardless of insurance or ability to pay.