

## Emergency Room Visits



If you go to a hospital emergency room to be seen for your medical problem, there are many things that may happen to you while you are there: Most emergency rooms are divided into two parts: a waiting area where you sit until you are called to see a doctor, and rooms where doctors examine and treat patients.

A person at the front desk will ask you about your problem. You will have your temperature, pulse, and blood pressure taken. You will be seen right away by a health care provider if you have a very bad problem that cannot wait. You may have to wait if your problem is not very bad. Emergency departments do not take appointments, and sometimes you may have to wait if other patients come in with a problem that is more serious than your problem.

Once you are taken in to see a health care provider, you may be given a special piece of clothing (a gown) to change into, if necessary. Usually, a nurse will see you first to ask you about your problem. Then a doctor will see you.

After you have been examined, more tests, such as blood samples or X rays, may be needed. Once these tests are

finished, you will be told what they learned from the tests. You will be given instructions about how to care for your medical problem at home. To make sure that you get better, the emergency room doctor may advise you to see your own doctor as part of your follow-up care. If you have a very serious medical problem, you might be hospitalized.



Remember: Even though the doctors and nurses in the emergency room may appear to be very busy, don't be afraid to ask questions. Ask for an interpreter if you need one. It is important for you to understand the care you are getting in the emergency room and what to do to care for yourself after you leave.

Text- Adapted from the Health Guide For Refugees In Minnesota by the Minnesota Department of Health, Refugee Health Program [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee)  
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