

Medical Emergency is a serious and unexpected situation involving illness or injury and requiring immediate action. These emergencies may require assistance from another person, who should ideally be qualified to do so. Any response to an emergency medical situation will depend strongly on the situation, the patient involved and availability of resources to help them. It will also vary depending on whether the emergency occurs while in hospital under medical care, or outside of medical care (for instance, in the street or alone at home).



The purpose of any Emergency Department is to save lives. An emergency is any medical problem that could cause death or permanent injury if not treated quickly. Severe pain in some instances can also be a medical emergency, such as the pain associated with kidney stones or appendicitis.

Some examples of medical emergencies are:

- Chest pain accompanied by sweating, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, radiating pain that moves to the arm or neck, dizziness, or feeling that your heart is beating irregularly or too fast
- Choking
- Severe bleeding that doesn't stop after 15 minutes of direct pressure
- Fainting
- Broken or displaced bones
- Swallowing poison
- Burns
- Suddenly not being able to walk, speak, or move a portion of your body
- Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing