



Urgent vs Emergency Care

What's the difference?

At times medical terms can be confusing, mostly when you need care right away. Let's look at two common terms.

Urgent Care - There are some injuries and sicknesses which may not be emergencies, but can get worse if they are not treated within 24 hours. Call your doctor first for non-emergency medical care.

Examples of Urgent care needs are:

- A minor to moderate asthma attack
- Earaches, sore throat, muscle sprains/strains
- A minor illness with fever if a child is more than 2 months of age
- A skin rash due to an insect bite

What to do if your child has an urgent medical need?

- **Call your doctor first** - Tell them your child's symptoms and ask for an appointment as soon as possible. They may ask you to take your child to the hospital if your child needs immediate care.
- **After hours or on the weekend** - Call your child's doctor first and they will tell you what steps to take next.

Emergency Care - This is when you think you or your child could die or if you think harm will come to you or your child if you don't get medical help right away.

Your responsibilities include:

- Know when you should go to the emergency room.
- Call your doctor first for non-emergency medical care.

Go to the nearest Emergency room if your child has:

- Trouble breathing or bleeding that continues after pressure is applied for 10 minutes
- A neck or spine injury or any fever in an infant younger than 2 months old
- A broken bone, fainting, stomach or chest pain and animal bites

For a listing of After-hours/Urgent care centers visit
www.driscollhealthplan.com.

CALL 911 FOR LIFE OR DEATH SITUATIONS