

Emergencies

In the case of a true emergency call 9-1-1 to be transported by ambulance to the emergency department.

Examples of emergencies:

- Severe chest pain or pressure or new chest pain.
- Sudden shortness of breath.
- Severe back or neck injury.
- Traumatic injury such as a knife or gunshot wound, or a motor vehicle accident
- Severe persistent bleeding that will not stop.
- A fall and unable to get up.
- Sudden weakness, particularly affecting only one side of the body, or slurred speech.
- New confusion or personality change.
- Fainting or loss of consciousness, with or without a head injury.
- Severe abdominal pain, especially with vomiting.
- Vomiting of blood.
- Fear of committing suicide.
- Any other symptom that you consider a serious emergency.

Urgent problems best treated in the Emergency Department or Urgent Care Center that may or may not require an ambulance include:

- Sudden high fever (temp above 101.5) or other symptoms of severe infection.
- Gradually worsening shortness of breath.
- Injuries that may require x-rays, such as a broken bone.
- Lightheadedness that lasts more than 30 minutes.
- Heart racing that lasts more than 30 minutes.

Always bring **a list of your health problems, medications and drug allergies** with you to the Hospital or Urgent Care Center, along with your insurance information and emergency contacts.

For less serious problems you can save time and money by coming to the Hastings Internal Medicine office.

Hastings Internal Medicine has appointments set aside every day for urgent problems. We have your health information on file and know you better than the staff in the Emergency Department or Urgent Care, so we can give you better treatment with less waiting at lower cost.

(If you are unsure what to do outside of regular office hours, call the answering service at (269) 945-9567 and the provider on call will make a recommendation for you.)