

North Reading Pediatrics

In Case of Emergency

A common misconception these days is that children get the same type of care in a hospital emergency room as at their pediatrician's office. Unfortunately, this is not true. We've designed this page to outline for parents when it is appropriate to call 911, when to take your child directly to the emergency room, and when to call the pediatrician. Of course the final decision should be made by the parent.

Usually the following reasons can be advised by your doctor, and may not require an emergency room visit:

- Fever
- Ear pain/infection
- Flu
- Colds
- Minor sprains
- Nausea
- Stomach pain
- Headaches
- Sore throat

Call 911 if your child

- Is not breathing or turning blue
- Has sudden unconsciousness or cannot be awakened
- Is having a seizure (convulsing)
- Has severe unstoppable bleeding

Go to the emergency department when your child has

- Severe breathing difficult
- Multiple or serious injuries, including fractures (broken bones)
- Severe allergic reaction (swollen lips, swollen tongue, difficulty breathing)

Call Poison Control at 1-800-682-9211

If you believe your child may have eaten a poison or other toxic substance, you should first call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-682-9211.

Call North Reading Pediatrics at 978-664-4698

If at any time you have questions or concerns about your child's health call our office at 978-664-4698. An on-call Doctor is available 24/7 to answer your questions.