#### When Should I Come to the ED?

If you experience any of the following symptoms, you may need to report for further evaluation and treatment.

- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- Chest or upper abdominal pain or pressure lasting two or more minutes
- Fainting, sudden dizziness, weakness
- Changes in vision
- Difficulty speaking
- Confusion or changes in mental status, unusual behavior, difficulty walking
- Any sudden or severe pain
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Severe or persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Suicidal or homicidal feelings
- Unusual abdominal pains
- Accidents or injuries

## What should I bring with me to the ED?

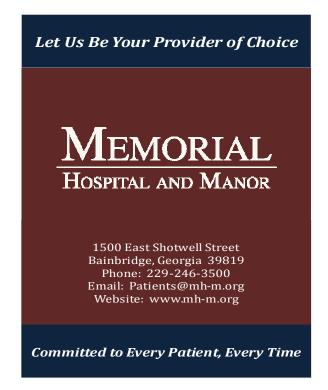
- A list of all medications
- A list of any allergies
- A list of immunizations
- A list of prior conditions or surgeries
- A list of any treating Providers
- A picture ID
- Emergency Contact Information
- Insurance information

Our Emergency Department is committed to providing you with the best Emergency Services possible, and for being here to help during the emergencies that happen in your life.

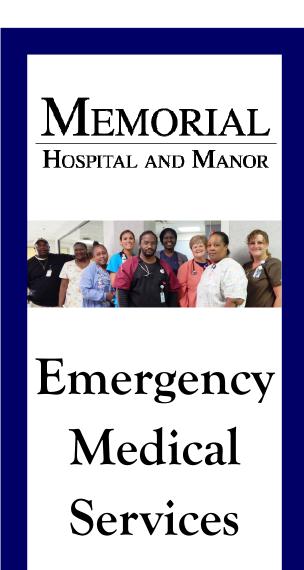
We Promise that You can Count On Us!

# What should I do if my symptoms are not an emergency or life-threatening?

- You can contact your Primary Care Physician's Office and make an appointment to see your regular Doctor.
- If you do not have a regular Doctor, or if it is after hours, you can visit **Amelia Medical Plaza** between the hours of 5pm-7pm, Monday through Friday, and 9am-1pm on Saturday. 229-243-6900
- If the symptoms are related to a child under 18, you can visit **Memorial Pediatrics Same Day Care** from 8:00am-6:30pm, Monday through Friday, and 8:30am-11:30am on Saturday. 229-248-0011



Our mission is to deliver courteous, respectful, safe, and quality care to every patient, every time. We will deliver excellent patient service from caring and engaged employees committed to continuous improvement.





## **Our Emergency Services**

Our Emergency Department is here for you in the event that you experience an emergency. We have trained Nursing staff and Physicians that can treat and assist you in case of an emergency medical condition.

# Upon Your Arrival

Upon your arrival to our ED, you will be triaged by an ED Nurse. The Nurse will complete an assessment, evaluate your symptoms, check your vital signs, review your medical history, and review your current medications. The Nurse may ask questions as to the severity of your symptoms, or length of time that you have been experiencing symptoms. All of these things help our ED Nurses determine the seriousness or emergent nature of your visit. This process allows us to assess and treat those patients with life-threatening or emergency situations first.

# After Triage

After you have been triaged, you may be immediately placed in a patient room, or you may be placed in the waiting room. Our ED space and beds are limited, so we must place those with emergency conditions in a bed first so that they can be given immediate care and their conditions stabilized. As we treat emergency conditions, all other patients will be treated and placed in patient rooms as soon as possible. We ask all patients to understand that critical or emergency conditions must always be treated first.

#### Once You Have Been Placed in a Room

Once you have been placed in a room, one of our Nurses will visit with you again to help you get comfortable. She will inform the Physician

that you are ready to be seen. The Physician will visit with you, and ask you questions about your symptoms and medical history. Depending on your condition, the Physician may order lab work or x-rays to help



them better diagnose your condition.

# Blood Tests and X-rays

If your ED Physician orders blood tests or xrays, then someone from Lab or Radiology will come to your room. They should introduce themselves, and then begin to perform the testing ordered by your Doctor. Results from these



tests can take from 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on the type of testing ordered. Please be patient while we wait on the results, as they will help your Doctor treat your medical condition.

## Once the Results Are In

Once all the results have been received, your Doctor or Nurse will come back and discuss the results with you. The Doctor will use the results from any testing to diagnose and treat your medical condition. Depending on the results, you may also be referred to another Physician for follow-up care.

## Being Discharged

Once your condition has been treated, and it is felt that you can be discharged from the Emergency Department, your Nurse will review your discharge instructions with you. These instructions may include medications. home care instructions, and suggestions for follow-up care with another Physician. Please review your discharge information as it may contain information that is vitally important to your overall health and recovery.

# Being Admitted

Your condition may sometimes require that instead of being discharged, that you are admitted into our Hospital for further care, evaluation, and treatment. The ED Physician will work with our Hospitalist to admit you, and ensure that the appropriate care is or-

dered. Once the admission orders have been HOSPITAL processed, your care will be assumed by the Nursing Staff and Physicians from our In-patient unit.



## Being Transferred

Depending on the severity of your symptoms, or the type of medical condition that you have, it may be necessary to transfer you to another healthcare facility. This transfer may be recommended by your ED Physician, and would be to provide more appropriate care for your specific medical condition. If a transfer is recommended, the ED Staff will work with the other facility to ensure that your transfer to their facility is as smooth as possible.