

Good Reasons to Go to an Emergency Room:	Bad Reasons to Go to an Emergency Room:
<p>Loss of consciousness.</p> <p>Signs of heart attack that last two minutes or more. These include: pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest; tightness, burning, or aching under the breastbone; chest pain with lightheadedness.</p> <p>Signs of a stroke, including: sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg on one side of the body; sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye; loss of speech, or trouble talking or understanding speech; sudden, severe headaches with no known cause; unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, especially when accompanied by any other stroke symptoms.</p> <p>Severe shortness of breath.</p> <p>Bleeding that does not stop after 10 minutes of direct pressure.</p> <p>Sudden, severe pain.</p> <p>Poisoning (Note: If possible, call your local poison control center first and ask for immediate home treatment advice-certain poisons should be vomited as soon as possible while others should be diluted with water as soon as possible. Such preliminary home treatment could save your life.)</p> <p>A severe or worsening reaction to an insect bite or sting, or to a medication, especially if breathing is difficult.</p> <p>A major injury, such as a head trauma.</p> <p>Unexplained stupor, drowsiness or disorientation.</p> <p>Coughing up or vomiting blood.</p> <p>Severe or persistent vomiting.</p> <p>Suicidal or homicidal feelings.</p>	<p>Earache.</p> <p>Minor cuts where bleeding is controlled.</p> <p>A minor dog or animal bite where bleeding is controlled (but see your doctor—a rabies shot may be necessary).</p> <p>A sprain.</p> <p>A sunburn or minor burn from cooking.</p> <p>An insect sting or delayed swelling from a sting (if there is breathing difficulty, go to the ER).</p> <p>A skin rash.</p> <p>Fever (if there is a convulsion, go to the ER).</p> <p>Sexually-transmitted diseases.</p> <p>Colds and cough, sore throat, flu.</p>