

Ask for Help

Emergency call criteria

You are not alone. Expert advice is only a phone call away.



If a patient in the Emergency Department meets any of the emergency call criteria, the hospital medical officer **must** speak to the senior doctor on call .

Contact the Senior Doctor on call

012345678

General practitioners who work in the emergency department do not have to speak to another senior doctor, but we encourage them to do so. A second opinion can often be helpful.

Emergency call criteria

Airway

Threatened

Breathing

Respiratory Rate <10

Respiratory Rate >28

O₂ sat < 90 % on oxygen

Circulation

Pulse Rate <50

Pulse Rate >120

Systolic BP <90

Neurology

GCS < 14

Seizures

Other

Children < 12 months old

Multi-trauma

You are unsure what to do, or worried about any patient



IMPROVING SAFETY IN RURAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Even small emergency departments are expected to deal, at short notice, with critically ill patients. Sometimes these patients would challenge the well staffed teams of specialists in a large city emergency department.

Unfortunately, small rural hospitals cannot have senior staff in the Emergency department at all times. Hospital medical officers will often be alone - and feel very alone.



The emergency call criteria offers you the chance to call for help. And, to stop you worrying about whether you will get in trouble for calling in the middle of the night, we have taken the choice away. You **must** call for help as soon as any of these criteria are met.

For immediate hands on help, if needed, consider asking for help from any senior doctor currently in the hospital.