

Pre-Reading Discussion: Have you or anyone you know ever had an emergency? What was the emergency? What did people do to help the patient?

Reading Passage Section 3: Emergency Care

To make good health decisions, you need to know the difference between emergency and non-emergency situations.

It is important to know the difference between health emergencies and non-emergencies.

Sometimes people have very serious health problems that need immediate treatment by a health professional. Examples of emergencies are **swallowing poison**, **having a very high fever**, **losing a lot of blood**, **breaking a bone**, or **having a heart attack**. People with these kinds of serious problems need help right away. Someone may have to call 911 to ask for an ambulance for emergency care.

Paramedics or EMTs will come to treat the patient right away. They will also take the patient to the hospital if needed. You can also get emergency help at an immediate care center or hospital emergency room.



People can also have pain or accidents with their teeth. They should call a dentist right away if they have bad tooth pain or if a tooth breaks or is knocked out.

In an emergency, there are things you can do to help. For example, if your tooth is knocked out, put your tooth in a glass of milk and take it with you to the dentist. The dentist may be able to fix it. If someone swallows poison or too much medicine, take the bottle of poison or medicine with you to the hospital. Then the doctors will know how to help.