

Is it an **EMERGENCY?** Let Us Help You Decide!

Thank you for choosing Hunterdon Pediatrics for your Medical Home. We are proud to care for you and your child, in sickness and in health!!

Parents may be confronted with making an important decision: Should I take my sick or injured child to the emergency room? Some instances are obvious; for example, a major injury will typically need a trip to the hospital. Sometimes, though, it isn't clear what to do.

When you are unsure, let us help you decide!

We are here for you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. One of our specially trained nurses will review your child's symptoms and may ask you a series of questions to guide what will happen next. It is never a bother to ask for advice – that's what we're here for!

Each day, we reserve appointments in our schedule for sick children. Our office is open seven days a week, and we are open on most holidays too. We also have evening hours Monday through Friday because we know that many parents work, and that kids don't get sick on schedule! Our electronic health record assures that your child's chart will be available regardless of which HPA office you visit.

After hours, when the office is closed at night, you still have access by phone to telephone advice by calling our office number: **908-782-6700**. That means a pediatric nurse will assess your child's situation and make recommendations; she may suggest home care, an office visit the next day or within a few days, or a trip to the emergency room. She has access to the HPA provider on call, who can help with the decision if needed. If your child's status changes, you are welcome to call back to reassess the need.

We have also posted all of the handouts you find in our offices on our website: www.hunterdonpediatrics.org. You might especially look at the *Common Illnesses* list to find advice before calling.

If you do visit to the Hunterdon Medical Center emergency department, we receive a report about the care your child received. We will call you in a day or so to check on your child's progress and to schedule a follow up if needed.

Our Emergency Department also offers behavioral health crisis services for extreme situations such as danger of harm to self or others. There is also a Mobile Response Team you can call when behaviors are dangerously out of control: 908-788-6400

The right care in the right place at the right time – this is our goal for you and your child. We are so grateful for the excellent care in our Hunterdon emergency department! But we don't want to subject your child to an Emergency Department experience when it is not needed, and we don't want you to have the added expenses of an Emergency Department visit when avoidable.

We are here for you, and together we are taking care of your child!