



What to Expect in the Emergency Department

If you experience any sort of life-threatening emergency, you should go to the Emergency Department. We invite you to watch a short video to discover what to expect when you visit the emergency department at www.dekalbmedical.org/our-services/emergency.

Whether you arrive by ambulance or by car, you will be seen based on the severity of your condition. A nurse will do an initial assessment called triage. If your condition is less severe, you may be eligible for the fast track area. If you require observation, assessment and testing, your wait time may vary. It may take several hours to complete a thorough examination. If your condition warrants, you may be admitted to the hospital or if you are identified as safe to go home, you will be discharged.

TRIAGE

- take vitals
- assess main issue
- place on list to be seen
- most serious cases seen first
- move to wait area

FAST TRACK

- triage identifies fast track patients
- minor conditions addressed
- you may qualify if less severe
- patients who arrive after you may go this route, if they require less care

WAITING

- wait times may vary
- care is ongoing during wait
- test processing
- physician reviews care
- if your condition worsens, let a clinical staff know immediately

DISCHARGE

- you are safe to go home
- follow instructions for prescriptions and follow up appointments
- ask questions and engage in your care

