

When to Come Back Urgently

Warning signs you should never wait on

GO TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NOW

Chest pain, sudden breathlessness, or coughing blood — especially after surgery, a fracture, or long travel

Difficulty passing urine, or loss of control of urine or stool, with back pain — particularly with numbness around the back passage or inner thighs

Sudden weakness of both legs

A limb that is white, blue, cold, numb or that you cannot move — in or out of plaster

Swelling of the face, lips or tongue, or difficulty breathing after any medicine

A fit, sudden confusion, or a head injury with vomiting or drowsiness

Uncontrolled bleeding, or a wound with bone or deep tissue exposed

CONTACT US THE SAME DAY

Fever above 100.4°F after surgery, or with a joint that is hot and swollen

A wound with spreading redness, pus, a bad smell, or edges opening

Increasing pain after the third day following surgery or injury, or pain not relieved by your painkillers

A plaster that is too tight, has become wet, cracked or loose

Calf pain, swelling or tightness in one leg

Any break in the skin of a diabetic foot, however small

A rash after starting a new medicine — especially allopurinol or an antibiotic

A fall, especially if you are on bone treatment or blood thinners

Sudden severe back pain if you have osteoporosis

BOOK A ROUTINE APPOINTMENT FOR

Pain that is not improving as expected · a joint that keeps giving way or locking · difficulty with your medicines, or side effects · questions about returning to work, driving or exercise · your next dressing, stitch removal or review · anything you were told to come back for — even if you feel completely well

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My next appointment: _____ **My hospital:** _____

If you are unsure whether something is serious, contact us. We would far rather answer a question that turns out to be nothing than see a problem too late.

Search: emergency, when to see doctor, red flags, warning signs, urgent symptoms

