



1911 Cooks Hill Road • Centralia, WA 98531
360-736-6778

My child is sick or hurt – Should I call Northwest Pediatric Center or go to the emergency department?

Call us first:

- Unless your child has a life-threatening emergency
- A provider or nurse is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. We'll help you decide if your child can be seen here at NWPC or if they should go to the emergency department

Take your child to the emergency department or call 911 when:

- She or he has a life-threatening illness or injury (see list below)
- Your child may need rapid or advanced treatment, such as surgery

Typical, non-life-threatening conditions we treat at Northwest Pediatric Center	Life-threatening conditions treated at the emergency department
Allergies	Anaphylaxis with tongue or throat swelling, trouble breathing, and shortness of breath
Asthma exacerbations that do not involve severely labored breathing	Trouble breathing, including asthma that is not improving with home treatments
Common colds	Any change in behavior following loss of consciousness, especially after a head injury
Coughs	Bleeding that doesn't stop
Dehydration	Blue or purple skin or lips
Ear, nose or throat infections	Burns or smoke inhalation
Fevers	Choking
Flu-like symptoms	Facial or dental injuries
Minor burns	Seizures (loss of consciousness, muscle spasms, drooling or foaming at the mouth, falling)
Cuts and lacerations that may require stitching/stapling	Any impact injuries, such as from a car or bicycle accident, or falls from heights > 2 feet
Rashes	Rashes that look like broken blood vessels or bruises
Diarrhea	A possible broken bone that looks deformed
Skin infections	Large, dirty open wounds requiring lots of stitches
Vomiting	Vomiting bright-yellow or green material
Sprains	

Visit [Children's Health](#) for more information on when to take your child to urgent care or the emergency department

Updated 6-13-23

