

What to expect when coming to Emergency Departments

Niagara Health's team is committed to providing safe, quality care in a timely manner.

Patients are seen on a priority basis, not on a first-come first-served basis. This ensures the sickest patients get the care they need first — even though they may arrive after other patients.

What influences the wait time?

Wait times can vary and change quickly due to a number of factors, including:

- The severity of each patient's condition or illness
- The number of patients seeking medical attention
- An incident such as a serious car accident, which can unexpectedly and significantly impact the wait time for others
- The high number of patients in other areas of the hospital, which impacts movement through the Emergency Department

X-rays and other tests

The physician or nurse practitioner may order tests such as bloodwork, X-rays and ultrasound. Average wait times for results of these tests are:

- X-rays: 1 hour
- Bloodwork: 1.5 hours
- Ultrasound or CT scans: 2 hours

Once complete, the Emergency Department physician or nurse practitioner will review the test results with the patient and discuss suggested next steps.

If your condition changes

Please let a member of our team know immediately if your condition changes or you begin to feel worse. This will help us meet your needs in a timely manner.

Always call 911 for Emergencies or if you are uncertain about the seriousness of your condition.

niagarahealth
Extraordinary Caring. Every Person. Every Time.

