

Understanding Emergency Department Procedures

Anderson Regional Medical Center's critical care patients are ALWAYS top priority, no matter who has been waiting longer in the Emergency Department.

Average Visit Time

The average Anderson Regional Medical Center visit for a non-critical condition is 3 to 4 hours from time of arrival to time of discharge. This is an average — events in the emergency room are unpredictable and can lead to longer wait times.

Triage

Triage is a French word meaning "to sort out." The triage nurse will determine whether you have a critical or non-critical condition, and will assign a Triage Level. Patients are seen based on the Triage Level, NOT in the order in which they arrive.

Assessment

Your Anderson Medical Team will focus on your presenting problem, as well as look at your medical history and conduct a physical examination. You may be asked the same questions several times, but all information is vital to improving your health.

X-Rays & Lab Studies

If your condition warrants it, various imaging studies may be ordered and blood, urine and other samples may be taken for testing. Imaging studies may be as simple as an X-ray, or something as involved as a CAT scan. Blood is sometimes obtained when a nurse starts an IV line or is sometimes drawn by itself. Imaging studies and tests of body fluids can take some time, so please be patient as your Anderson Medical Team awaits results.

Intervention

Your Anderson Medical Team may have to do things to try and improve your health or repair your injury or treat your pain. This may start as soon as your triage assessment or may need to wait until some or all of the X-ray or laboratory studies are completed. It is common for you to undergo repeated assessments after an intervention to determine if it has been beneficial.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is a term to describe your medical condition. The Anderson Medical Team ALL work towards making a diagnosis of your medical condition, however in the Anderson Emergency Room, our primary mission is to make sure you do not have an injury or illness that is an immediate threat to your life or could result in a major disability to you. All of our tests are geared towards this primary mission. Many medical conditions require more extensive tests than are used in the emergency setting or require repeated evaluations over an extended period of time to make an accurate diagnosis. This is why we will refer you to see your family doctor, or, if you do not have one, recommend a staff physician.

Admission

If your illness or injury is severe enough, you will be admitted to the hospital. Your physician

will discuss this option with you, and, if you like, your family. The Anderson ER doctor will contact your doctor to make arrangements for you to be admitted into the hospital. Other members of the Anderson Medical Team will make arrangements for a room and continued treatment.

Discharge

If your condition can be treated without admission to the hospital, you will be provided with the necessary information and prescriptions to allow you to safely go home.