



SIGNS YOU SHOULD RUSH YOUR CHILD TO URGENT CARE

It is part of life that children will often fall sick or get injured. Many minor problems can be managed at home or with a routine doctor's visit, but some symptoms should never be ignored. **Recognising early warning signs and seeking urgent medical care can prevent serious complications and in some cases, even save a child's life.**

Let's take a look at what one should look out for.

Difficulty in breathing is definite cause for alarm. Rapid breathing, wheezing, grunting sounds, flaring of the nostrils or the skin around the lips and ribs pulling in with each breath indicate respiratory distress. Bluish lips or fingertips are especially dangerous and require immediate attention.

Fever, if persistent, should also never be ignored. Any fever in a newborn under three months, a fever above 104°F (40°C), or fever accompanied by seizures, rash, neck stiffness or extreme drowsiness needs prompt medical attention. Fever with dehydration such as dry mouth, no tears while crying or reduced urination is also worrisome.

Severe vomiting or diarrhoea can quickly lead to dehydration, especially in infants and young children. Blood in vomit or stools, greenish vomit, persistent abdominal pain or a swollen abdomen are red flags.

Head injuries should never be overlooked. If your child has a head injury followed by repeated vomiting, loss of consciousness, confusion,



unequal pupils, severe headache or excessive sleepiness, urgent care is required immediately.

Sudden seizures or convulsions, even if brief, need medical evaluation. Similarly, unexplained loss of consciousness or fainting should be treated as an emergency.

Severe allergic reactions are also to be reckoned with. Swelling of the face or throat, difficulty breathing, hives with vomiting or sudden weakness after exposure to a food, insect bite or medicine demands urgent care.

Finally, **serious injuries** such as deep cuts with uncontrolled bleeding, suspected fractures, burns or injuries from road accidents require immediate medical attention.

Parents know their children best. If your child seems unusually lethargic, unresponsive, in extreme pain, or "just not acting normal," trust your instincts and rush your child to urgent care. Early treatment can make a critical difference.