



Press Release
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When Time is of the Essence, Local Emergency Department is a Lifeline

Reeves County Hospital District urges the community not to delay medical care when experiencing a severe health condition.

PECOS, Texas (Jan 10, 2021) – When time is of the essence, emergency medical care at Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) is an important safety net for the greater Reeves County region. From stitches to stabilizing heart attack or car accident victims, the emergency department at RCHD is staffed around the clock and ready to care for you when an emergency strikes.

“An emergency room is not top-of-mind for the average person, but when a medical emergency strikes, knowing where to go is important,” says Brenda McKinney, CEO of RCHD. “Here at Reeves County Hospital District, patients can rest assured that they are seen very quickly with a team of medical professionals and advanced medical equipment.”

McKinney adds that delaying care in a medical emergency can put you at serious risk.

As a Level IV Trauma Center, RCHD is certified to treat patients in almost any medical situation. The emergency department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with nurses and physicians specially trained to provide comprehensive medical and surgical services.

Many rural hospitals in Texas have either no designation, or a Level IV Trauma Center accreditation, while larger facilities in metropolitan areas have upwards of a Level I designation. In Pecos, having a trauma center designation means area residents can rest assured advanced care is available close to home.

Studies have shown that many people who visit emergency rooms are not experiencing a medical emergency. Knowing when a medical condition warrants a visit to the ER not only means that you get the healthcare you need, but it can also save you time and money if your condition is less severe.

A heart attack, for instance, is severe enough to warrant an immediate trip to the emergency room. Symptoms typically last for two or more minutes and include pressure across the chest; feelings of tightness, burning, or aching around the breast; general chest pain; and lightheadedness.

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Stroke victims typically experience symptoms such as sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, usually on one side of the body, confusion or difficulty speaking or understanding speech, sudden difficulty walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination or trouble seeing in one or both eyes.

Both medical events should always be taken seriously and cause an immediate trip to the emergency room.

Significant head trauma also warrants immediate medical attention. This condition can result from sports injuries, falls from any height, or severe accidents.

Prolonged blood loss may require medical intervention and, in extreme circumstances, blood transfusions. Cuts or wounds in which bleeding does not stop after 10 minutes of direct pressure may indicate that urgent medical care is required.

As COVID-19 continues to threaten individuals worldwide, including here at home in Reeves County, some severe symptoms might require immediate medical attention. Severe symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, difficulty breathing, and persistent pain or pressure in the chest, to name a few.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, most people who make a trip to the emergency room do not require emergency services. It is estimated that such unwarranted trips cost up to three times as much as care in a physician's office or an urgent care clinic.

If your condition is mild and you are experiencing controlled pain, waiting to see a primary care provider may be the optimal route for healthcare.

Like most emergency departments across the country, patients are not seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead, several factors determine the order in which patients are seen, including the severity of their conditions.

As a result, patients with less severe conditions can often be seen quickly and save money by visiting the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic.

McKinney says that if you are ever in doubt, it is always best to exercise caution and call 911 or make your way to the emergency room.

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Reeves County Hospital District

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To learn more about local health programs and services or to find a local medical provider, visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

About Reeves County Hospital District

Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) provides healthcare services for people in Reeves County and neighboring communities in West Texas. Founded in 1954, RCHD, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers a wide variety of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic radiology, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RCHD also operates American Home Health and Hospice and the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, which offers family care, immunizations, and other medical services. For more information, please visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

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