

**USE OF ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**GUIDELINES**

Please advise all of the Young people how to use A & E APPROPRIATELY

Only in a medical emergency should attendance at Accident and Emergency be necessary.

Injuries that are more than 24 hours old are not considered an emergency

Examples to attend A & E without delay include;

Major Injuries

Falls from a significant height

Major head injuries

Collapse and loss of consciousness

Severe breathing difficulties

Severe Chest pain

Severe bleeding / haemorrhage

Poisoning

Extensive burns / scolds

Severe allergic reactions

Accute confused state

Fits

Severe abdominal pain



**NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A&E**

Generally if the person is unwell, but alert and speaking without impaired consciousness or severe breathing difficulty they DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND A&E.

Coughs

Ear ache – unless associated to penetrating injury to the ear

Backache – unless associated with inability to control the bladder or bowels

Sore throats

Minor breathlessness / wheezing

Abdominal Pain – unless extreme or associated with collapse

Urinary symptoms – unless completely unable to pass urine

Diarrhoea and vomiting

Simple bites or stings

Minor rashes

Dental problems

**Services to use for conditions not deemed appropriate for A&E**

Patients own GP

If the surgery is closed and you have a medical problem which will not wait until next time the surgery is open, phone 111