

A photograph of a male doctor with grey hair and glasses, wearing a white lab coat over blue scrubs and a pink stethoscope. He is leaning over a patient lying in a hospital bed, smiling and looking down at the patient. The patient is wearing a blue and white patterned hospital gown. The background shows a hospital room with medical equipment, including a monitor and IV stands. A white text box with a purple border is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

EMTALA: Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act

A federal law was created in 1985 to insure access to quality healthcare for everyone. The law was put into place to protect people who were being rejected by healthcare professionals and treated as though they had little or no value.

At UPMC, our value of **DIGNITY & RESPECT** is built on the foundation that all human beings deserve to be treated as they want to be treated.

One way to ensure that patients and families are being treated with the **DIGNITY & RESPECT** that they deserve is by adhering to the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).

What is EMTALA?

EMTALA (Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act) requires that **ANYONE**

- ■ ■ **WHO PRESENTS** on hospital property (or 250 feet from hospital property) seeking
- ■ ■ **MEDICAL EXAMINATION** and treatment
- ■ ■ **MUST** be given an appropriate medical examination by a qualified person to determine if an emergency medical condition exists.

“ANYONE” means: any individual who comes to our hospital - adults, children, psychiatric patients, women in labor, etc. Even if we are not a pediatric hospital, a mental health hospital, or a labor & delivery hospital, we **MUST** still permit them to have a medical examination in our emergency department (ED).

“PRESENTS TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT,”

includes: patients who come to the ED, who present to any location on hospital property other than the ED, and who present to our off-campus facilities (Offices, parking garage, etc.)

“MEDICAL EXAMINATION BY A QUALIFIED PERSON,”

includes: physicians or other qualified personnel as defined by our hospital bylaws.

Your Responsibility



Get help for anyone experiencing a medical condition or requesting medical evaluation on the hospital campus (inside or outside, including the garage)



Assist the patient to the ED.
Simply giving directions is not sufficient.



Call a condition C or A if the patient cannot be moved. The team will treat and move the patient to the ED for the medical screening exam, stabilization, and transfer if necessary.



Call your supervisor or the AOD if the patient refuses to go to the ED.



"We don't accept your insurance here."

"How will you pay for treatment."

"We don't treat (pediatrics/mental health/OB/Maternity) here."

Living the UPMC values means that we treat all individuals the way they want to be treated.

We will abide by EMTALA as patients present themselves, not just because we are required by federal law to do so. We will provide quality care to anyone seeking a medical examination and treatment because we are entreated by the laws of humanity to treat every person with

DIGNITY & RESPECT.