



**EMTALA:** Emergency Medical Treatment & Active Labor Act  
UPMC Systemwide Annual Mandatory Training

A federal law was created in 1985 to ensure 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.

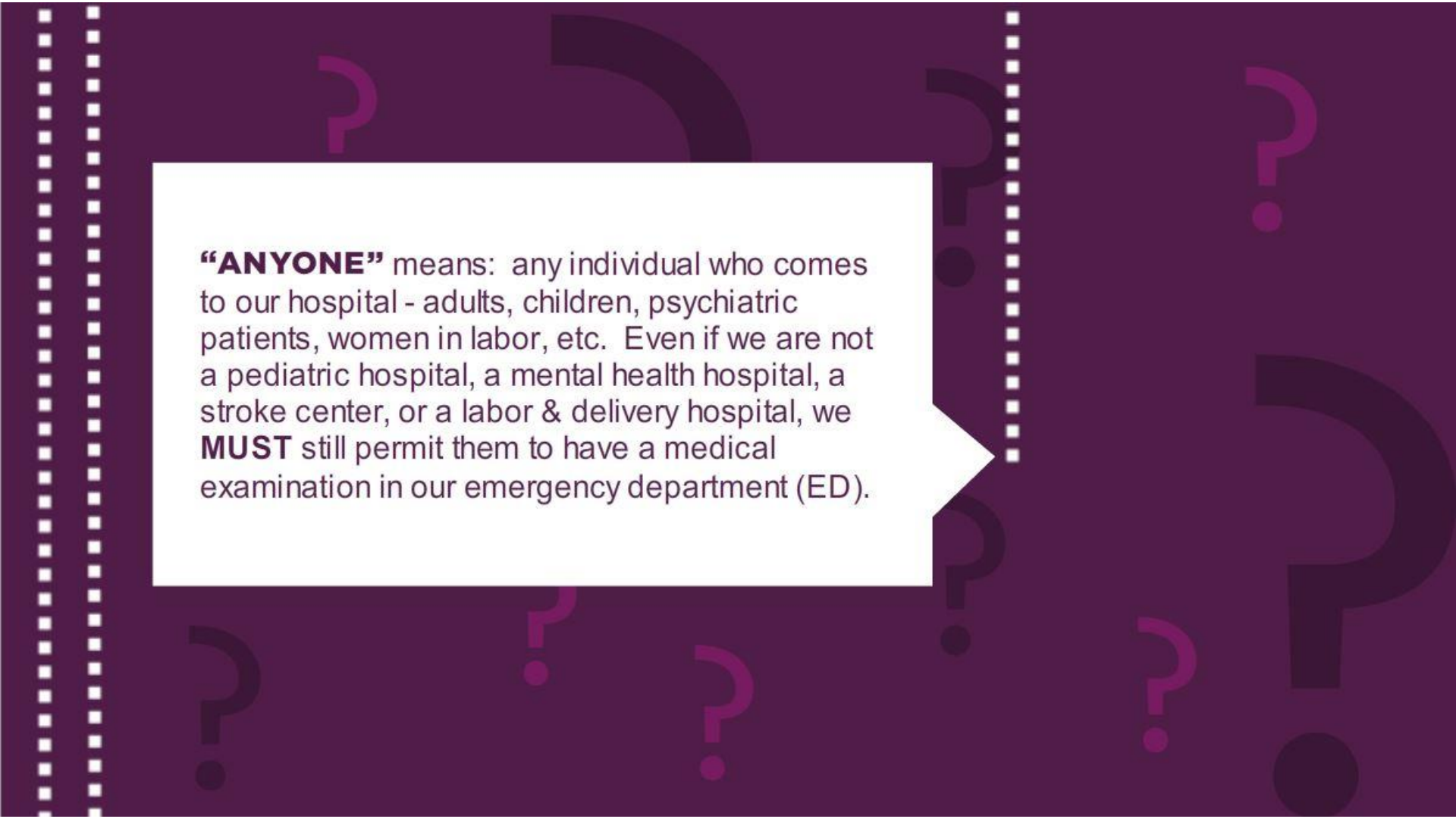


At UPMC, our value of **DIGNITY & RESPECT** is built on the foundation that all human beings deserve *to be treated as they want to be treated*.

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 Active 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, a stroke center, 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

Review the list of your responsibilities if you encounter anyone experiencing a medical condition or requesting medical evaluation on the hospital campus (inside or outside, including the garage).

*(This list is not all inclusive)*



Get help, if needed.



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 administrator on duty (AOD) if the patient refuses to go to the ED.



# What NOT To Say

*“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.**