

# Health and Welfare Alert



Ohio Administrative Code 5123:2-17-02 requires all developmental disabilities employees to review Health and Welfare Alerts released by the department as part of annual training. All previous alerts are listed on the department's website.

## Evaluating Emergencies #51-9-17

Quick, decisive action is necessary to ensure health and welfare during a medical emergency. It is critical to seek immediate medical attention if a person with developmental disabilities is experiencing a significant change in their medical condition.

**Sometimes, providers or family members ask to be contacted prior to the person receiving medical treatment**

The Major Unusual Incidents unit has identified some cases where a delay in providing emergency assistance caused medical concerns or fatal outcomes. While providers should acknowledge family preferences, they must also ensure appropriate medical care and treatment.

Discuss emergency medical treatments and any concerns during a person's individual service plan meeting. Often, families and guardians sign emergency medical consent forms to ensure immediate medical care is provided.



### When to Call 911 *for emergency assistance*

### Fast Facts

**797** Medical emergencies were filed with the Major Unusual Incidents unit in 2016

- 53% were choking related
- In 2016, care providers successfully intervened in **406** choking cases

**1,553** Significant injuries were reported

- 47% were falls

Chance of survival decreases **7% to 10%** each minute without CPR and defibrillation

Administering effective CPR immediately after cardiac arrest can **double or triple** a person's chance of survival

Less than **8%** percent of people survive cardiac arrest in a non-hospital setting

— American Heart Association

**General symptoms** – Severe and constant abdominal pain; heavy bleeding, despite applying direct pressure; difficulty breathing or severe wheezing; fainting or loss of consciousness; chest pain

**Falls** – Severe head injury; person is unable to get up on their own when otherwise capable; person is in severe pain when lying still or trying to get up; limb seems broken, such as a bone sticking out, swelling, or unusual position of arm or leg

**Blood pressure activity** – Extremely high blood pressure or hypertensive crisis occurs with a top number (systolic pressure) of 180 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) or higher, or a bottom number (diastolic pressure) of 120 mm Hg or higher

**For cardiac arrest, immediately call 911, then start CPR and continue until emergency responders arrive**