

Getting after-hours medical care

Te kimi āwhina ā-tākuta i waho i ngā haora mahi

Getting medical care at night, at weekends, or on public holidays is not always easy. Having a plan helps.



This Age Concern information sheet helps you make that plan.

1 Find out about after-hours services in your area

- Ask your doctor, or listen to your doctor's recorded after-hours telephone message for instructions.
- Ring the after-hours centre(s) and find out what it will cost. After-hours charges can be more than a visit to your doctor. Costs are generally lower if you have a Community Services Card or High User Health Card.
- **For health advice, and information about health services, you can call Healthline on 0800 611 116 at any time of the day or night.**

2 Plan how you would get to the after-hours service

- Would you or someone else in the house be able to drive?
- If not, is there someone nearby who could drive you?
- Is there a taxi service? Find out about the Total Mobility taxi voucher scheme. Fares are reduced by half if you qualify – call Age Concern for information.
- Feel confident about calling an ambulance. Dial 111 for an ambulance if someone is seriously ill or badly injured, and they need immediate help.

More overleaf 

A note about ambulance costs

Transport to hospital in an ambulance will not cost you anything if you are injured as a result of an accident. In this case ACC pays. However, when it's not an accident you may have to pay between \$60 and \$80 for ambulance attendance and/or transport. Ambulances in Wellington are free.

3 Keep health-related phone numbers handy

You could add to this list and keep it by the phone –

	Phone	Notes
Ambulance	111	
Healthline (free call)	0800 611 116	
Poison Centre	0800 764 766	
After-hours medical centre		
Doctor		
Accident and Emergency		
Age Concern		
Taxi service		
Family or friend		



Serving the needs of older people

www.ageconcern.org.nz

Acknowledgements

© Age Concern New Zealand

This publication is the intellectual property of Age Concern New Zealand.

It must not be altered or republished (including any translation, editing, or reformatting) without the written permission of the Chief Executive and acknowledgement of Age Concern's authorship.