

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

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Acknowledgements

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