

Emergency Medical Condition (42 CFR 489.24(b) Definitions)

A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms (including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances and/or symptoms of substance abuse) of sufficient severity such that a prudent layperson could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in: Placing the health of the individual (or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy; or in serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Examples of Emergency Medical Conditions:

- Fluctuating consciousness
- History of delirium tremors or withdrawal seizures
- Confusion and disorientation
- Fever
- Head injury
- Severe agitation
- Loss of consciousness
- Impending severe alcohol or drug withdrawal
- Severe tremors
- Cardiac conditions, such as chest pain with severe anxiety
- Acute mental status changes
- Pulmonary condition which results in shortness of breath
- Persistent vomiting
- Hypo- or hyperglycemia

Possible indicators an Emergency Medical Condition:

- Person is unable (versus unwilling) to give history.
- Person reports a current medical condition (see Examples of EMC above).
- Confusion, exposure to the elements, wandering, dementia, developmental disability, extreme impulsivity/agitation.
- Pregnancies, seizures, shortness of breath, recent head injuries, recent loss of consciousness, diabetes.
- Types of medications the person is taking, prescribed and not prescribed, what dosages, and last use
- Other substances the person is using, chronicity of use, and last use
- A concurrent medical condition that may complicate or be significantly exacerbated by alcohol withdrawal or its treatment.