

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.



For health advice, and information about health services, you can call Healthline on 0800 611 116 at any time of the day or night.

This Age Concern information sheet helps you make an after-hours medical care 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. Many doctors have a website with their hours listed.
- Ring the after-hours centre(s) and find out what it will cost. After-hours charges can be more than a visit to the doctor. Costs are generally lower if you have a Community Services Card or High Use Health Card.

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.

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	
Afterhours medical centre		
Doctor		
Accident and Emergency		
Age Concern		
Taxi service		
Family or friend		

Note about ambulance costs

ACC may pay for transport to the hospital in an ambulance if you are injured as a result of an accident.

However, when it's not an accident you may have to pay up to \$100 for ambulance attendance and/or transport.

See www.stjohn.org.nz/What-we-do/St-John-Ambulance-Services/Part-Charges/ for information on current costs.

Ambulances in Wellington are free.

For more copies of this information sheet please contact Age Concern New Zealand

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Age Concern New Zealand wishes to thank the Ministry of Health for providing funding for this information sheet.