

## Partners InCare

Dear **Vijaya Radhakrishna, M.D.,P.A. & Associates**

In an effort to reduce Emergency Room (ER) utilization and cost, Partners In Care is sharing the below patient information with your practice.

Please copy and share this information along with your contact information, hours of operation, and an after-hours plan, on your letterhead, with your patients via a flyer or email blast.

### **Where to go when you are sick:**

When should you go to the Emergency Room? Here are some tips to know when it is really an emergency. You should only go to the emergency room when you are experiencing a serious illness or injury. Treatment in your doctor's office can often help you avoid the long wait time in the emergency room and higher financial responsibilities.

First you should call your primary care physician. All primary care offices have after hour's coverage. Not only does your primary care doctor have all your records, but they know you the best and can determine where you should be seen.

### **Examples of non-urgent matters include the following:**

- Sore throats
- Ear ache
- Common cold
- Feeling tired

### **Examples of urgent matters for which the ER is appropriate include:**

- Severe bleeding
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Sudden onset of loss of speech or difficulty moving
- Shortness of breath
- Severe chest pain especially along with sweating, shortness of breath, dizziness
- Irregular heart rate
- Broken bones
- Severe burns
- Open wounds

If you are unsure about where to go if you become sick after hours, call your primary care physician and they will decide what level of care is best for you.

Please let me know if you need assistance or clarification as we work together to educate and engage our patients.

Thank you,

**Donna Taylor-Rivera, R.N.**  
**Director, Clinical Operations**

Partners In Care, Corp.  
2 Tower Center Boulevard, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tower 2 - East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816  
Tel: 732.246.0291 - Fax: 732.745.4798 - Website: [www.piccorp.com](http://www.piccorp.com)