



Media Release

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HCHD Urges those Seeking Routine Medical Care to Avoid Emergency Rooms

As it prepares for Hurricane Rita, the Harris County Hospital District is urging people seeking routine medical care to avoid doing so at hospital emergency rooms. To find out if they are experiencing a true medical emergency, people should call Ask Your Nurse.

Ask Your Nurse (713-633-2255) is a free a hotline where callers can ask experienced nurses about their urgent health concerns 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

"We are doing everything we can to free up hospital rooms and services at Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson general hospitals in preparation for Rita, but we need our community's help," said George Masi, chief operating officer for HCHD and administrator of Ben Taub General Hospital.

"We are asking people not to show up at hospital emergency rooms if they don't have an emergency. Some folks are even coming to the hospital with conditions that can be treated at home with over-the-counter medicine. And at this time, our emergency rooms need to be dedicated to treating true medical emergencies."

The Harris County Hospital District is the public healthcare system for the nation's third most populous county. In its 40th year, the hospital district operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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