

**Children's Health Minute**  
**"Emergency Room Overuse"**

**Air Dates: Week MAY 1, 2006**  
**Spot # HHSC-M101**

**Dr. Hellerstedt:** If your child has an illness or injury, when should you go to the hospital emergency room?

Hi, I'm Dr. John Hellerstedt with the Children's Health Minute -- connecting families with Children's Medicaid and CHIP.

When your child gets sick, your first point of contact should be your doctor's office. Almost all childhood medical conditions can be treated there quickly and efficiently. If there is a medical emergency and you believe that without immediate treatment your child's life or health is in jeopardy, then you should go to the emergency room. In some cases, even quicker action is needed. If your child suffers poisoning, a serious head injury, difficulty breathing, heavy bleeding, or coughing up or vomiting blood, pick up the phone and dial 9-1-1.

**Announcer:** Call toll-free 1-877-KIDS NOW to apply or when it's time to renew your children's health insurance. Six months of coverage for all your children costs just 50 dollars or less, but most families pay little or nothing. That's 1-877-KIDS NOW