

Requesting an ambulance

Typical responses to patient clinical conditions

Urgency	Examples include but are not limited to	Response	Additional information
Immediately life threatening. Call 0800 262 665	Cardiac arrest, severe shortness of breath, severe shock, unconscious, ST elevation myocardial infarction.	An ambulance will be dispatched immediately with lights and sirens.	The average response time is 10 minutes.
Urgent but not immediately life threatening. Call 0800 262 665	Chest pain without signs of ST elevation myocardial infarction, pneumonia without severe shortness of breath, severe pain, acute stroke.	An ambulance will be dispatched immediately at normal road speed.	The average response time is 20 minutes. The crew will use lights and sirens if there are traffic delays. Call back if the patient's condition worsens significantly.
Not urgent. Call 0800 262 665	Soft tissue infection without signs of septic shock, fractures without distal limb ischaemia or abdominal pain without signs of shock.	An ambulance will be dispatched when available.	The average response time is 30–60 minutes. Call back if the patient's condition worsens significantly.