



# **Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa**

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY 1 of 2024**

**RELEASE DATE: MARCH 2024**

**REVIEW DATE: MARCH 2029**

## AIM

EMSSA is committed to promoting the development of emergency care in South Africa , it also aims to lead the development of high quality medical care within emergency departments and centres in South Africa. With this aim in mind the Society has defined the term Emergency.

Section 27 of the Constitution and the National Health Act provides that everyone has the right to have access to health care services, including reproductive health care services and no one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

## DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY

An emergency is a sudden and unexpected onset of a health condition that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity that requires immediate medical care. Failure of the Health care user to seek or receive urgent intervention and medical attention at an appropriate facility or level of care may result serious harm or death.



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