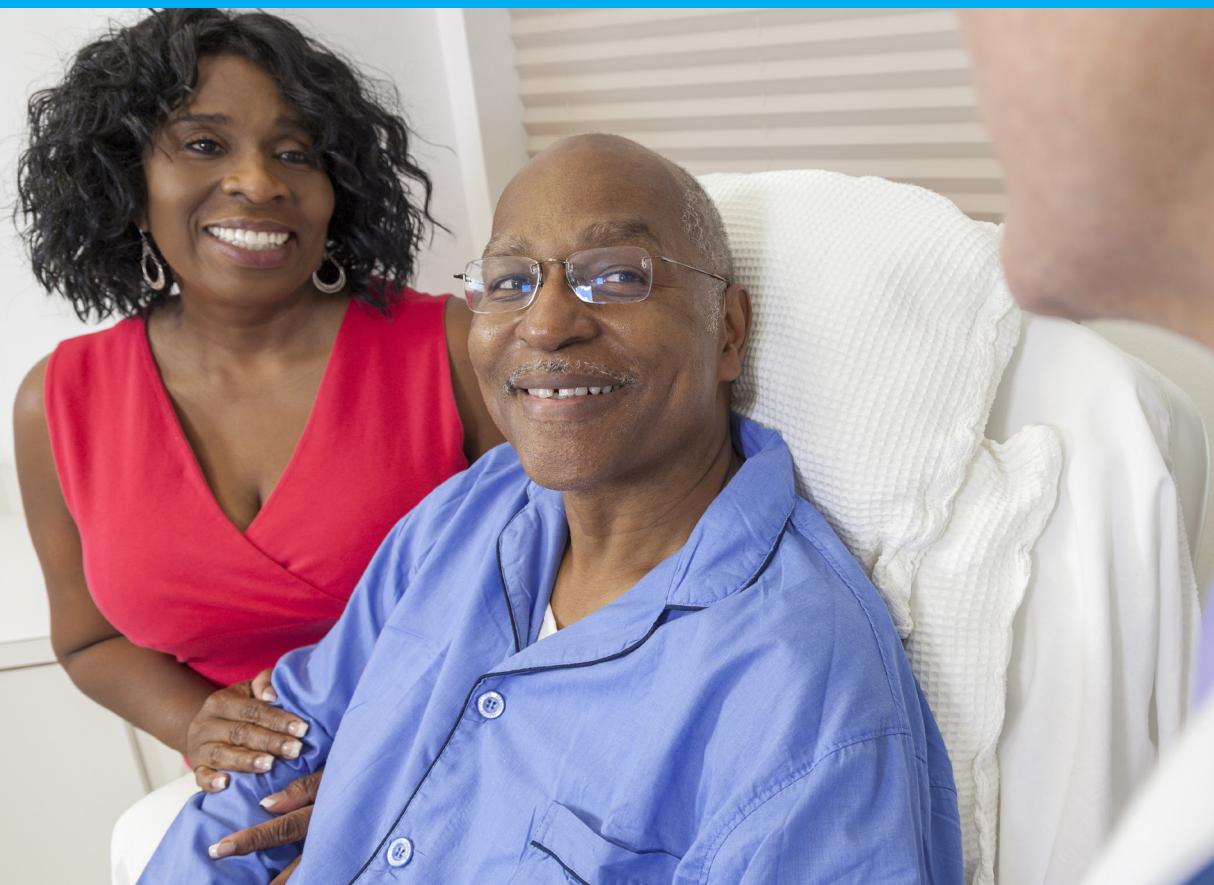


The Importance of an Emergency Room Companion



Should you require treatment in an emergency room, ask a relative or a friend to accompany you to serve as your “clear head.” He or she can keep track of what procedures are being done and what kind of treatment you’re getting, and speak on your behalf if treatment seems too slow in coming.

Having a reassuring companion nearby can also help reduce the stress of an emergency room visit. Your companion should also know about any medications that you are currently taking. Try to bring these medications with you. Most important, your companion can take you home if any medicine given would preclude you from driving.

After you are treated, your companion should help you find out:

- What follow-up care is necessary?
- What is the name of the emergency room doctor who treated you?
- Are there special considerations for the next 24 to 48 hours?
- Should your private physician be notified?
- Do you have a prescription that must be filled immediately?