**Accessing Specialists & Emergency Care**

1. **Do I need a referral to see a specialist, and how do I get one?**

It depends on the specialist; consult your GP for guidance and referrals if needed. Or check the most frequently visited doctors’ list on our website to find out.

1. **Which specialists are available under public healthcare services (TAJ)?**

A range of specialists is available, check with your GP or local health services for specifics. Basically, almost all specialists are available; however, some types of examinations and screening or blood tests are not (e.g.: HIV or Hepatitis tests are covered only if you have symptoms and there is a suspicion that you are ill.). Also, you can experience longer waiting lists.

1. **What should I do if I need urgent medical care outside GP hours?**

Visit the nearest emergency department or call the emergency services.

            Phone number for Ambulance: 104

Police: 107,

            Fire brigade: 105

**Central Emergency Helpline: 112 - can be dialed from a Hungarian cell phone from inside the country.**

**Also, a newly introduced system of urgent medical care outside GP hours is available: Dial 1830 or** [**https://www.mentok.hu/en/main-page-en/**](https://www.mentok.hu/en/main-page-en/)

1. **How do I access emergency services, and are they free?**

        Dial 112 for emergency assistance, emergency services are free.

        Dial 1830 or click on <https://www.mentok.hu/en/main-page-en/>

Difference? 1830: medical on-call, night on-call, weekend on-call. Calling 1830 is for minor health problems. However, even if it is designed to deal with minor problems, it is in any case mainly for health problems that cannot be postponed until the next day.

Calling 112 is for serious issues that most probably require an ambulance.

Both phone numbers are managed by the National Ambulance Service, so in case, the patients cannot decide which number to choose they cannot commit any mistake.

1. **What are the steps to take if I need surgery? Do public healthcare services (TAJ) cover it?**

Consult your GP if you are unsure whether you need surgery, or not. However, a referral is not necessary to visit a surgeon but making an appointment is a must if yours is not an emergency case. Necessary surgeries are typically covered by public healthcare (with TAJ Card). Gödöllő surgery: <https://tormay.hu/szolgaltatasok/sebeszet/>

1. **Can I visit a private specialist without a referral, and will insurance cover it?**

        You can visit a private specialist without a referral, but public healthcare (TAJ card) doesn’t cover private consultations.