Talking Points
Know Where to Go

January 2024

- Maryland hospitals are open 24/7/365 and care for everyone who comes through their doors, regardless of ability to pay.
- Maryland hospitals are prepared to deliver high-quality care for their communities, but emergency department crowding has become a serious concern.
- Maryland hospitals need the public's help to ensure that hospital resources—including limited staff—are being used efficiently.
  - To help ease crowding in Maryland hospitals' emergency departments:
  - Use hospital emergency rooms only for TRUE emergencies
  - Call your doctor or use urgent care for non-life-threatening issues
  - Try a telehealth visit if you're just unsure about your condition and need answers from a professional
  - Get vaccinated, get boosted, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.