

MEDICAL PROBLEMS

Very Important Phone Numbers

The number to call in a real medical emergency is 15 (SAMU) which is the equivalent of our 911. Number 18 is the pompiers (firemen) who in addition to their main job are great at getting you out of a stuck elevator. The number for the police is 17.

Medical Problems

In the Fourth Edition I stated that the place to go is the American Hospital in Neuilly-sur-Seine, a suburb close to Paris; it is at 63, boulevard Victor Hugo; telephone 01-46-41-25-25. This was based on a food poisoning incident about eight years ago. I went there on an emergency basis and received excellent treatment. Three years ago I went for a non-emergency situation and first saw an internist and then an otorhinolaryngologist (ear, nose, and throat). The treatment by both was unsatisfactory and expensive at 70 and 80 euros. Actually there are very few American physicians working there. So it is definitely not the place to go except on an emergency basis. The emergency room is staffed by English speakers.

The best place to go in a non-emergency situation is the IAMAT Center (International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers). It is now located at 1, Ave Lowendal in the 7th; closest Métro is Ecole Militaire; telephone number is 01-45-63-18-43. The physician there is Dr. Nancy Salzman who has a comprehensive family practice; she has over 20 years of experience treating expats visiting France. The office is open Monday through Friday and same day appointments are available in appropriate situations; her secretary is English speaking. If your problem requires a specialist, she can refer you to English speaking one. In her absence see Dr. Francis Slattery who I have seen twice and received excellent treatment. He is English speaking from Scotland. Address is 10, avenue d'Eylau in the 116th; Métro is Trocadéro; telephone 01-47-42-02-34.

After getting unsatisfactory treatment at the American Hospital I did find a very competent otorhinolaryngologist whom I saw several times. His fee was 40 euros or half of that charged by the one at the American Hospital. His name is Dr. Pierre Drweski. He has his American Boards and is married to a Canadian lady. His secretary does not speak a word of English so if you call you get to speak to him directly. He is located at 58, rue Chaussée d'Antin; telephone number is 01-48-74-32-54.

SOS Médecins is another good possibility, but there is no guarantee that they will speak English and I am informed that they do charge more for a house call than an office visit. The telephone number is 01-47-07-77-77. Quite a few readers have reported excellent experiences with them. And if the physician cannot handle the problem they are very good at getting you to the right specialist or hospital. Their cars can be seen all over the streets of Paris.

It is hard to imagine that any reader of this guide could get acid indigestion from overindulgence. Should this unlikely event occur our favorite antacid is "Rennies" which is available at any pharmacy.