

## **After Hours Services**

Ivy Pediatrics/PedEmerge prides itself with offering the most convenient evening and weekend office hours of any practice in the area. Most pediatric practices have one evening day per week and most have only Saturday hours until noon. Families in those practices have to miss a day of work and take kids out school in order to have a sick or a well visit with their provider. We are open Monday-Friday until 9 pm and on Saturday and Sunday until 7 pm!

That convenience does come at a price because it is difficult to recruit and retain staff and providers who are willing to work those hours instead of being home with the families. It also overbooks our evening and weekend time slots while keeping the weekday time slots open.

In order to encourage doctors to provide after hours and weekend visits instead of referring patients to the emergency room or urgent care centers, the insurance companies allow practices to charge and be reimbursed for "after hours" services that occur after 5pm Mondays - Fridays, or on weekends.

Accordingly, Ivy Pediatrics now bills the after hours code, 99051. The additional cost of \$20 may or may not be covered by your insurance plan. To avoid owing the additional \$20, we encourage you to check with your insurance plan to see if 99051 is covered, or limit your visits to weekdays before 5pm.