

In case you are very sick and cannot go to a doctor's office, you can also call and ask your general practitioner for a home visit.

### **Medical Specialists**

Specialists (as for example eye specialists, dermatologists, orthopedists, urologists or gynecologists) work in their own practices or at hospitals.

Sometimes you might also contact a specialist without going to a general practitioner first:

Pregnant women should regularly visit a gynecologist throughout their pregnancy. The gynecologist monitors the pregnancy, the development of the child and can directly help with possible problems. Most babies are born at the hospital. Your gynecologist will advise you about when to go to the hospital.

Many specialists exclusively work with appointments. Please ask in advance when you can come!

### **Dentists**

To go to the dentist you need a separate **insurance pass**. In addition to the practices there are separate dental clinics. For complex dental treatments you need to hand in a quote (estimate of the costs) at the Social Assistance Office beforehand.

### **Hospitals**

In Haltern, there is a hospital with different departments. There is a surgical ward. There is a department of gynecology. There is a department of internal medicine. Moreover, there is a specialized department for orthopedy.

How can you receive treatment at the hospital?

Your general practitioner or a medical specialist can transfer you to a hospital, if you suffer from an illness which can only be treated there. Normally, he or she will also call the hospital for you to sign you up. If you know in advance that you will be hospitalized soon, you have to request the payment for this kind of therapy at the Social Assistance Office.

In case of an emergency, your doctor will transfer you immediately.

### **Other Information**

#### **Emergencies**

Some illnesses or injuries occur suddenly and can be life-threatening.

If you observe/experience such an emergency you should immediately call an ambulance with your phone. It will take you to the hospital. The ambulance/emergency doctor can always be contacted by calling 112.