

Decatur's Parkway Medical Center Puts Fast Track On Emergency Care

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DECATUR, AL - A Tennessee Valley hospital is moving people through the emergency room in record times. Parkway Medical Center calls it the Fast Track E.R.

[Parkway Medical Center](#) has improved its emergency care with its Fast Track E.R. by improving in and out time by around two hours.

Angie Letson's dad got to the hospital around 10 o'clock Wednesday morning complaining of flu-like symptoms.

"They've already done the blood work, and chest x-ray, so I think they're doing a really good job on him," said Letson.

Here's how Fast Track E.R. works. While the doctor sees critical patients, a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant will see patients complaining of minor symptoms.

"We're able to spend more time with critical patients instead of having to see the cold or some of the flu symptoms or something simple, simple procedure things," said Dr. Ed Robbins. "Where we're actually able to spend more time with the sicker patients and intensify our service."

It doesn't mean those patients are not going to see the doctor who is working in the E.R.

"We still have to have a face-to-face time with the patient," said Dr. Robbins.

It only means you're not going to be stuck in the waiting room or the emergency room all day or night.

"We know that everyone's time is valuable," said Summor Morris, Parkway Medical Center's Director of E.R. "And with the increasing volume, we're having to implement some processes to expedite patients' care."

Morris says the hospital has turned on the light to emergency care.

"The whole concept is to get people in and out quicker and they are able to get care a lot of times quicker than a doctor's office," said Morris.

Currently, Fast Track runs Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Parkway Medical Center is planning to extend Fast Track E.R. times to seven days a week at the beginning of 2010.