

What is First Aid?



*F*IRST aid is what to do before the doctor arrives. It is not intended to take the place of the doctor. It has been well described as a bridge between the accident and medical or surgical assistance, over which the patient may be safely and securely carried from the scene of accident or sudden illness to the doctor or hospital. Once that bridge is crossed first aid has performed its mission.

*F*irst aid stops when the injured person is placed in the hands of the surgeon. The permanent treatment and care of injuries, the administration of medicine, the diagnosis and treatment of disease are not part of first aid.

*T*he best first aid worker is the one who knows when to stop. Some first aid workers have been known to almost spoil their good work by trying to carry it too far. Your work is finished when the surgeon arrives.

*F*irst aid goes beyond the handling of accidents. It includes the prevention of the spread of contagion, relief in sudden sickness and other emergencies. The prevention of disease today is considered a greater work than the curing of disease, and the first aid movement is popular in its appeal to the public to remove the cause of disease.