Hospitals must have adequate signage posted at all entrances that a patient seeking emergency care could enter through. That signage must state the following:

**IT'S THE LAW**

IF YOU HAVE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY OR ARE IN LABOR, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE, within the capabilities of this hospital's staff and facilities:

An appropriate MEDICAL SCREENING EXAMINATION

Necessary STABILIZING TREATMENT (including treatment for an unborn child) and, if necessary,

An appropriate TRANSFER to another facility

Even if YOU CANNOT PAY or DO NOT HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE or YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO MEDICARE OR MEDICAID

This hospital (DOES/DOES NOT) participate in the Medicaid Program

This sign must be clearly visible from a distance of 20 feet away or from patient's likely viewing point and posted in a manner likely to be seen. This requirement typically requires signs in general areas to by at least 18" x 20" in size. Signs must be posted in foreign languages where applicable, and the same size requirements apply. Signs in small cubicles or areas less than 20 feet may be smaller, but still must be clearly visible. Conflicting signs are not permitted if they detract from the COBRA sign or may raise confusion by references to payment, advanced authorization, co-pays, etc.

In smaller hospitals where patients may enter through entrances other than the emergency room entrance (as that door may be locked at night or other entrances are more easily accessible to parking lots), it is recommended that signage be located at all those entrances. Some legal literature also recommends that smaller signage be located in any cubicles or treatment areas (such as waiting rooms and treatment rooms) where patients seeking emergency care would tend to wait to assure adequate opportunity to review the notice.