

Urgent Care or Emergency Room?

Your Choice Matters

When you're sick or injured, there are important factors to consider before you seek medical care. If your primary physician isn't available, you may be faced with a choice: visit an urgent care facility or head to the emergency room. Use this guide to make an informed decision the next time you need immediate medical attention.



URGENT CARE

Urgent care facilities are staffed by doctors and nurses and oftentimes offer diagnostic and lab testing.

Visit an urgent care facility for non-life-threatening conditions that require immediate care, such as:

- Cold/Flu
- Cough/Sore Throat
- High Fevers
- Ear Infection
- Sprain and Minor Fracture
- Vomiting/Diarrhea/Stomach Pain
- Mild Asthma
- Migraine
- Skin Rash/Allergic Reaction

Can have shorter wait times

Typically charge less than Emergency Departments



EMERGENCY ROOM

Emergency rooms are equipped for any medical emergency or trauma.

Seek emergency room services if you are experiencing a severe or life-threatening condition, such as:

- Chest Pain
- Head Injury or Unconsciousness
- Broken Bones
- Difficulty Breathing/Shortness of Breath
- Coughing Up or Vomiting Blood
- Deep Cut or Bleeding that Won't Stop
- Severe Burns
- Sudden Dizziness
- Weakness or Loss of Coordination/Balance

Can have longer wait times

Traditionally higher costs than Urgent Care facilities

*This is a guide and is not intended as a tool to diagnose injuries or illness. If you or someone you know could experience significant harm without prompt attention, seek emergency care or call 911 immediately.



Your health plan's affordability partner.

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