

Emergency Room or Urgent Care?

If you have an unexpected illness or injury, do you visit the emergency room or an urgent care center? Here's a helpful guide to help you decide.

WHERE TO GO

For life-threatening conditions, such as trauma or chest pains, you should always choose the ER.

EMERGENCY ROOM



Chest pain



Respiratory distress



Trauma or serious head injury



Uncontrollable bleeding



Amputation



Unconsciousness

For everyday illnesses and injuries that require timely attention, there is urgent care.

URGENT CARE



Cuts and scrapes



Fractures and sprains



Colds, bronchitis and pneumonia



Rashes and allergic reactions



Vomiting and dehydration



Asthma and wheezing

FACILITY TYPES

EMERGENCY ROOMS

- Equipped to handle life-threatening situations.
- Open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- Staff trained to treat trauma and acute conditions.

FREE-STANDING EMERGENCY ROOM

- FSERs are physically separate from hospitals.
- Same staffing as at an ER.
- You receive emergency care and pay emergency room prices.

URGENT CARE CENTERS

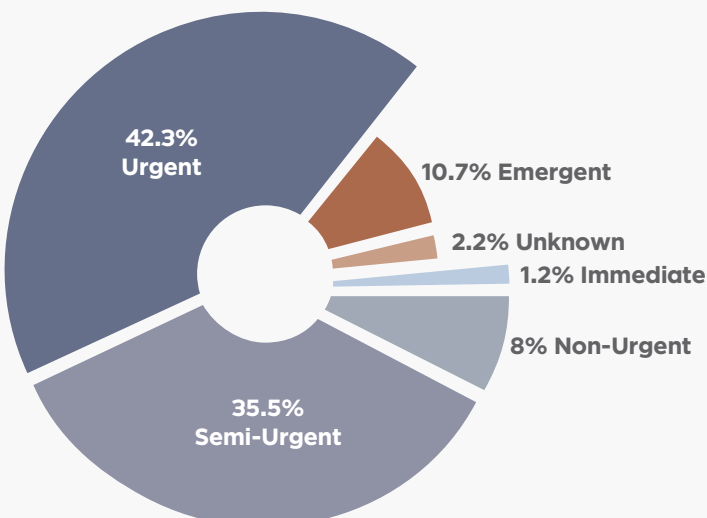
- Staffed with full medical team.
- Extended hours with no appointments needed.
- Typically have on-site labs, X-rays and can perform minor surgical procedures.

KNOW THE STATS

AVOID UNNECESSARY EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

MedExpress can provide much of the care received at an emergency room.

Up to **90%** of ER visits can be treated at MedExpress¹



SHORTER VISIT TIMES*



OVER 4 HOURS²
Emergency Room

UNDER 1 HOUR
MedExpress

*Average visit

LOWER COST*

\$1,423³ Emergency Room

\$155⁴ Urgent Care

*Average cost



¹National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2011

²Emergency Department Pulse Report, 2010

³Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 2013

⁴UCAOA Benchmarking Survey, 2011

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