







WHEN YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE IS CLOSED

When your doctor's office is closed or you need care quickly, you are often faced with two options—the emergency room (ER) or an urgent care center. Check out the differences between your options so you can make a good decision for yourself and your family. **Before you go be sure to call your local urgent care center to verify the facility and practitioners are both in-network.**



Urgent Care Centers	Emergency Rooms
Cannot have the word "emergency" in the name; examples include Concentra, CareNow, Patient First, and US HealthWorks	Will have the word "emergency" in the name; it may be associated with a hospital
Typically 7 days a week until at least 7:00 p.m.; may exclude some holidays	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
69% of patients are seen within 20 minutes , according to the Urgent Care Association of America Foundation	The average wait at a traditional ER is 4 hours , according to the Centers for Disease Control
47% of urgent care doctors specialize in family medicine according to the Urgent Care Association of America Foundation	Most, if not all, of the doctors on staff are board-certified in emergency medicine
Think of urgent care centers as an extension of your primary care physician; doctors here commonly treat upper respiratory infections, flu symptoms, simple fractures, etc.	Consider an ER if your health condition is life threatening or requires an immediate high level of care including instant lab results, lifesaving intravenous medications, full CT Scan, cardiopulmonary monitoring, etc.
Depends on your plan's specific coverage; according to debt.org , if you are paying out-of-pocket for something such as a strep throat test, you could pay roughly \$111 ; review your plan summary for specific coverage	Depends on your plan's specific coverage; according to debt.org , if you are paying out-of-pocket for something such as a strep throat test, you could pay roughly \$531 ; review your plan summary for specific coverage details

-  Look for This
-  Hours
-  Wait Time
-  Who You'll See
-  Capabilities
-  Cost

What Does This Mean for You and Your Family?

When you need medical care, determine what level of care you actually require. Choosing an urgent care center for everyday health concerns could save you hundreds of dollars. Research the options in your area and determine which ones are covered by your insurance plan's network.