

When to Use Urgent Care vs. the Emergency Room

Do you know the difference?



Urgent Care

Urgent Care locations are staffed and equipped to respond quickly to a variety of non-life threatening illnesses and injuries. Visits to Urgent Care are generally quicker and covered by health plans with lower copay.

Urgent Care locations are best for treating:

- Cuts or scrapes
- Abrasions or bruises
- Infections
- Sprains or strains
- Back pain
- Animal bites
- Cold or flu
- Sore throat
- Minor burns
- Minor allergic reactions
- Cough
- Minor injuries or pain



Emergency Room

Emergency Rooms are the best option in cases where conditions are life-threatening and may require advanced treatment, such as having chest pain. Because life-threatening conditions are the number one priority in the emergency room, less severe cases will take longer to be treated.

Emergency Rooms are best for treating:

- Chest pain
- Seizures
- Stroke
- Sudden or severe pain
- Head, neck, or eye injuries
- Severe vomiting, diarrhea
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Fainting, dizziness, weakness
- Broken bones
- Problems breathing/shortness of breath

This is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. When in doubt, or when facing a life-threatening condition, please contact 9-1-1 for emergency care.