



What to Know When Seeking Health Care Services

When you need care, knowing your options can save you time and money. Here are some care options arranged from least costly to more costly:

\$	Physician's office	
\$	CVS MinuteClinic®	
\$\$	Urgent care	
\$\$\$	Emergency care	

Emergency care

It's best to seek emergency care for sudden and severe medical or behavioral conditions. These include any condition you believe is life-threatening or could result in serious medical consequences, disability. Examples include a suspected heart attack or stroke, head injury, severe pain or uncontrolled bleeding.

Urgent care

You can seek urgent care for non-emergent health conditions. These include any conditions you can safely postpone treatment for while you contact a physician for instruction. Some examples include earaches, sprains, minor fractures, controlled bleeding, rashes, colds or stomach pain.

CVS MinuteClinic

CVS MinuteClinic offers quick, convenient and affordable treatment for many common illnesses. For many of these treatments, you can also get prescriptions. CVS MinuteClinic is a walk-in clinic inside select CVS Pharmacy and Target stores that specialize in family health care with no appointment needed. Visit a MinuteClinic when you need to treat conditions such as:

- Minor illnesses (strep/sore throat, flu-like symptoms)
- Minor injuries (bug bites, sprains)
- Screenings and monitoring
- Skin conditions
- Vaccinations and injections
- Wellness and physicals
- Women's services



You should always seek immediate emergency care if you believe you are experiencing a medical emergency!

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Urgent care vs. emergency care

It's easy to assume the emergency room (ER) is the only treatment plan for fast care at any hour of the day. But often, the opposite is true. If your injury or illness is minor, you may find yourself waiting a long time while others with more serious problems are seen first. Also a trip to the ER for non-emergent care can cost three to four times more than a visit to an urgent care center for the same injury.

The level of care you seek is completely your up to you. However, when you need urgent care, considering an urgent care center or doctor's can help you get the care you need faster, and at a lower cost to you.

Emergency Room (ER)

Because ERs are overwhelmed, you may wait hours to be seen, and at a high out-of-pocket cost. An ER should be used only for the most serious or life-threatening conditions. Emergency care is needed for medical emergencies that require immediate care to avoid severe injury, serious impairment, disability or death.

Urgent care center

Urgent care centers handle many problems that can be treated in a doctor's office, but they also offer some services not often found there, such as x-rays and minor trauma treatment.

Doctor's office

During normal business hours, you can be seen for a wide variety of services; from routine check-ups to immunizations. Also, most doctors' offices provide an answering service if you have a medical issue outside normal business hours.

Retail health clinic

This option offers quick, convenient and affordable treatment for many common illnesses like allergies, infections, bronchitis or strep throat. For many of these treatments, you can also get prescriptions. Retail clinics are usually located within or near a pharmacy, and may be in major retail stores.

Remember, you should always seek the level of care you need, regardless of the cost of that care.

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