

# KNOW WHERE TO GO.

We generally recommend that you go to your primary care physician first. But in case you are unable to get in, here are a few alternatives and the differences between them.



## Head to a walk-in clinic.

Walk-in clinics are ideal if you are experiencing uncomplicated illness or require quick care outside of a doctor's office or urgent care center. Generally, walk-in clinics are located within a store or pharmacy, making it easy to pick up prescriptions. Some screening and testing equipment may be available, but walk-in clinics usually aren't equipped to handle urgent health needs, such as broken bones, cuts or burns.

### Most common trips to a walk-in clinic include:

- Sore throat
- Earache
- Preventative care like vaccines or physical exams

**Financial perk:** Costs and copays for treatments are typically lower than an urgent care center visit.



## Head to an urgent care center.

If you're experiencing a more pressing medical issue, but it's not life-threatening, then your best bet is to head to an urgent care center. Their staff is made up of nurse practitioners, physician assistants and medical assistants. Urgent care centers often have x-ray and lab services, but they aren't equipped to perform invasive surgical procedures or procedures that require anesthesia and an operating room.

### Most common trips to an urgent care center include:

- Broken bones
- Cuts, wounds or burns
- Asthma or bronchitis

**Financial perk:** Costs and copays for treatments are typically lower than an emergency room visit.



## Head to the emergency room (ER).

Emergency rooms are meant for true emergencies and life-threatening medical conditions. Their staff of specialists, nurses and physician assistants is equipped to handle invasive surgeries and trauma care.

### Most common trips to the ER include:

- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe bleeding or injury
- Altered mental state or head injury

### Financial disadvantage:

The average cost of an ER visit is \$2,259.\*

## When in doubt, call 911.

If you're experiencing a medical emergency, it's always better to be safe than sorry. Always call 911 for an ambulance in life-threatening situations.