



TELEMEDICINE, URGENT CARE, OR EMERGENCY ROOM WHICH ONE YOU SHOULD USE

Choosing the right facility for care can save you money and expedite your care.

Many patients with easily treatable conditions utilize the emergency room unnecessarily. These visits often increase healthcare costs and can slow the treatment of true emergencies.

Options:



Telemedicine

Telemedicine is a service that may be available through your insurance. You can call or video chat with a doctor any time of the day for minor issues. These doctors can assess your condition and even prescribe medicine. Please note that this is not a substitute for a Primary Care Physician.



Urgent Care Centers

Urgent care is a walk-in facility that provides immediate care for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. Urgent care facilities typically have extended hours. Evaluate your insurance copays before going. Often times, urgent care facilities are cheaper than the emergency room but more costly than utilizing telemedicine.



Emergency Room

An emergency room is a hospital department that is intended to provide immediate care for life-threatening injuries and illnesses in addition to other conditions. Emergency departments are open 24/7 and can usually provide very comprehensive diagnostics and treatment.

Importance of a Primary Care Provider

A primary care provider, or PCP, serves a vital role in your overall health and wellness. A PCP is the primary link to your healthcare resources. They can help coordinate your care by working collaboratively with specialists. A PCP can also help you get the appropriate preventive screenings at the right time to help detect severe illness early on.

Telemedicine

- Colds, flu, bronchitis, sinus infections
- Eye infections & foreign bodies
- Insect bites, poison ivy, oak or sumac
- Low-grade fevers
- Minor allergic reactions & allergic rashes
- Sore throats
- Urinary tract infections & yeast infections

Urgent Care

- Burns - first & second degree
- Earaches & outer/middle ear infections
- GI upsets such as vomiting, diarrhea, indigestion
- Mild dizziness or vertigo
- Minor backaches
- Minor cuts, scrapes & puncture wounds
- Needlesticks, foreign body removal
- Severe sunburns, heatstroke or dehydration
- Work release, drug or alcohol testing
- Broken or fractured bones

Emergency Department

- Motor vehicle accidents
 - Large penetrating cuts
 - Burns over a large area of the body
 - Third-degree burns of any part of body
 - Amputations
 - Penetrating eye injuries
 - Chest pain, COPD, asthma & shortness of breath
 - Fainting
 - Sudden loss of vision or double vision
 - Seizures
 - Abdominal pain
 - Gynecological conditions
 - Pregnancy
 - Children under the age of 2
 - Psychiatric or emotional conditions
- *Copay waived with most insurance plans if admitted

Do not delay evaluation for life-threatening injuries or serious illnesses. If you have a major injury or are experiencing symptoms such as chest pain, slurred speech, dizziness or confusion, which could be signs of a heart attack or stroke, go to the nearest ER or call 911.