

# Urgent Care Center vs Emergency Department: HOW TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

## WHEN SHOULD I USE AN URGENT CARE CENTER?

Urgent Care Centers offer patients easy access to care for minor, non-emergency medical needs. Some of the benefits of an Urgent Care Center include:

- No appointment required
- Economical
- Short wait times
- Open evenings, weekends, and most holidays
- Local and convenient
- Access to labs and X-rays

## Conditions Cared for in an URGENT CARE CENTER

### RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

- Sinus pain
- Sore throat
- Cough/mild asthma
- Pink eye
- Earache

### MINOR INJURIES

- Cuts needing skin glue or stitches
- Accidents, falls
- Sports injuries
- Broken bones
- Neck, back, and joint pain

### OTHER CONDITIONS

- Bladder infections
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Rashes
- Mild vomiting and diarrhea

**NOTE:** If greater care is needed, our staff will direct patients to the proper health care provider. In a true emergency, we will transfer patients directly to an emergency department.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN EMERGENCY?

Patients may have many different types of emergencies. Most emergencies require at least one of the following:

- Immediate blood work
- Ultrasounds
- CAT Scans
- Placement of IV (intravenous) line

## Conditions Cared for in an EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

### PAIN

- Severe/sudden onset headache
- Severe abdominal pain
- Difficulty walking

### Signs of a Heart Attack:

- Severe chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of consciousness

### INJURIES

- Serious head, neck or back injury
- Severe fracture
- Deep or large wound
- Large burn
- Poisoning

### OTHER CONDITIONS

- Pregnancy-related problem
- Heavy, uncontrollable bleeding
- Fever in infants
- Convulsions or seizure

### Signs of a Stroke:

- Loss of vision
- Numbness/weakness
- Slurred speech/confusion

**Dial 911 immediately for any medical  
problem that is life threatening**