



presents Intro to U.S. Health Care Providers

Health care services in the United States are offered through many provider options, some more effective than others for certain types of care. It is best to know the differences between these providers for when you don't feel well.



Student Health Center

On-campus facility treating students for general sicknesses and injuries. Usually the first option for treatment.



Primary Care Physician/Specialist

General practitioner treating various conditions; can refer to specialists for additional treatment; appointments needed.



Urgent Care

Walk-in clinic with extended operating hours for conditions that cannot wait for an appointment.



Emergency Room

Walk-in facility to treat life-threatening, dire, and emergency conditions.

In situations where time will not allow you to wait for an appointment with a primary care physician or specialist, it is best to directly visit an **urgent care or emergency room**. Understand the differences below to avoid high cost bills:

Emergency Room vs Urgent Care

Key Differences	Emergency Room	Urgent Care
Average cost of:		
Scans	\$4,500	\$400
Testing	\$1,700	\$40
Treatment	\$2,500	\$200
Average wait	3 Hours	15 Minutes
Ambulance transport	✓	✗
Open 24/7	✓	✗
Life-threatening cases	✓	✗

More info at isoa.org.

Emergency Room vs Urgent Care

Continued

Here are some common medical conditions, scenarios, and where to visit if you are experiencing the below symptoms. Please note you are the best judge of how you are feeling and where it is best to see treatment.

Symptoms	Emergency Room	Urgent Care
Difficulty breathing	✓	✗
Chest pain	✓	✗
Head injuries	✓	✗
Minor burns	✗	✓
Prolonged bleeding	✓	✗
STD testing	✗	✓
Cold/flu	✗	✓
Loss of consciousness	✓	✗
Sprains and strains	✗	✓
Pregnancy testing	✗	✓
Severe vomiting and diarrhea	✓	✗
Dehydration	✗	✓
Stomach pain	✗	✓
Numbness on one side	✓	✗

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 and visit the nearest emergency room. Please do not hesitate to visit a provider if you need medical treatment.

More info at [isoa.org](https://www.isoa.org).