

Urgent Care vs Emergency Room (ER)



Understanding where to go for medical care can save you time, money, and stress—especially when you're not feeling your best. Urgent care and emergency rooms are designed for urgent situations where you cannot wait for a doctor's appointment. This quick guide will help you choose the right option based on your needs.



EMERGENCY ROOM

Only for serious or life-threatening emergencies. Open 24/7.



URGENT CARE

For minor illnesses or injuries. Quick care, no appointment needed.

Cost & Wait Time Comparison

Key Differences (average cost)	Emergency Room	Urgent Care
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	✓	✗

Feeling Sick? Here's Where to Go

Only visit the ER for serious or life-threatening emergencies. Use the guide below to match your symptoms with the right option.

Symptoms	Emergency Room	Urgent Care
Difficulty breathing	✓	✗
Chest pain	✓	✗
Head injuries	✓	✗
Minor burns	✗	✓
STD & pregnancy testing	✗	✓
Cold/flu	✗	✓
Loss of consciousness	✓	✗
Sprains & strains	✗	✓
Severe vomiting & diarrhea	✓	✗
Dehydration & stomach pain	✗	✓