



URGENT CARE OR EMERGENCY ROOM?

Guidelines for Patient Families to Choose



URGENT CARE	EMERGENCY CARE
Allergies or allergic symptoms	Allergic reaction — severe with trouble breathing or vomiting
Belly, stomach pain (mild, not severe)	Belly, stomach pain (severe or constant)
Breathing trouble from stuffy nose, asthma, a cold or congestion (not severe)	Breathing trouble (severe)
Bloody nose with no significant facial injury	Bloody nose from significant facial injury
Broken bone, possible X-ray may be needed	Broken bone, with abnormal shape or a break in skin
Burns (minor)	Burns (large or deep, involving eyes, or due to chemicals or electricity)
Cuts (small, that may require stitches)	Cuts that are large or deep or in a worrisome location like eye, outer lip line for discussion
Diarrhea, acting well	Diarrhea, with concern for dehydration (dry mouth, decrease urine, not making tears)
Fainting, but acting normal	Fainting, with abnormal behavior
Fever in children more than 60 days old without other concerns	Fever in children younger than 60 days old
Headaches (mild)	Headache (severe or prolonged)
Head injury if behaving normally	Head injury with persistent repeated vomiting or change in behavior
Insect bite or sting	Insect bite or sting with trouble breathing
Pain with urination	Painful testicle/scrotum

Additional Reasons for Visit

URGENT CARE
Cold with congestion and stuffiness
Ear pain or tugging
Pink eye
Rash or skin irritation
Sinus symptoms
Sore throat

EMERGENCY CARE
Concern for abuse or neglect
Ingestions
Weakness, numbness, vision loss, trouble speaking or altered awareness
Object stuck in nose, ear, skin or eye
Seizures

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For safety and regulatory reasons, we cannot make an on-the-spot assessment or offer recommendations as to where families should receive care. This chart is to guide families in their own decision.