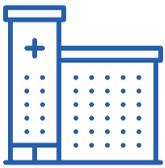


## Choosing the Right Care

*When to Use the ER, Primary Care, or Urgent Care*

When you or a family member needs medical care, it can be difficult to know where to turn. Here are some tips on how to choose the right healthcare option, based on your illness.

### Hospital Emergency Room



**When to use:** Hospital emergency rooms are designed to handle serious, critical conditions that require immediate, lifesaving treatment. This can include significant injuries from an accident, or medical emergencies such as a heart attack, stroke, or serious burns.

**Advantages:** Hospitals have the 24/7 staffing, equipment, and expertise required to treat serious, life-threatening injuries.

### Primary Care



**When to use:** When possible, it's best to schedule an appointment with your primary care physician for non-emergency care. This includes common symptoms such as a cold, sore throat, abdominal pain, or sinus infections.

**Advantages:** Your primary care doctor has a complete view of your medical history, which is especially important if you have a chronic health condition.

### Urgent Care



**When to use:** Choose an urgent care clinic for health issues that need prompt attention, but aren't life-threatening emergencies. This can include sprains, minor broken bones, flu-like symptoms, skin rashes, or abdominal pain.

**Advantages:** Urgent care facilities offer shorter wait times and lower out-of-pocket costs than an ER visit, with more extended hours than a primary care doctor.