

ER vs. Urgent Care: How to Make the Right Choice

Making the right choice on where to receive care can not only save your life, but save time and money, too. Review the chart below:

ER

- Signs of heart attack
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of balance or fainting
- Signs of a stroke
- Loss of consciousness or lethargy
- Any sudden, severe pain
- Falls with injury or with blood thinner use
- Head or eye injuries and/or loss of vision
- Broken bones or dislocated joints
- Deep cuts that require stitches and large open wounds
- Fever over 100.4 degrees F. or fever with a rash
- Persistent bleeding
- Repeated vomiting and/or diarrhea with concern of dehydration
- Serious burns
- Seizures without a diagnosis of epilepsy

Urgent Care

- Fever without rash
- Fever 100.4 degrees F. or lower
- Sprains
- Painful urination
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea where dehydration is not a concern
- Sore throat
- Ear infection
- Cough
- You already know the diagnosis, but cannot get an appointment with a primary care physician
- Broken bones of the wrist, hand, ankle or foot that have not broken through the skin

WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1



Do not drive to the hospital, but call 9-1-1 if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms. Calling 9-1-1 allows emergency medical services to begin lifesaving treatment upon arrival and continue while en route to the hospital.

- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty in breathing
- Numbness
- Slurred speech
- Sudden, severe headache
- Weakness on one side of the face
- Loss of consciousness
- Unresponsive or lethargic child
- Life- or limb-threatening injury
- Chest pain
- Pain in the left arm
- Pain in the jaw
- Sudden weakness or fatigue
- Dizziness or feeling faint



Summa Health System's comprehensive network of freestanding and hospital-based emergency departments are staffed by board-certified emergency medicine physicians who treat both pediatric and adult emergencies. For expert care close to home, tell the EMS team to "Take me to Summa."