

When to use... Emergency Care vs. Urgent Care

EMERGENCY CARE



A medical emergency is when a person is hurt very badly or could die if not seen right away. Go to the nearest emergency room (ER) or call 911 if you have a medical emergency or any of the following symptoms.



Non-responsive or no pulse



Knife or gunshot wound (or severe bleeding)



Broken bones



Chest pain or severe breathing problems



Heart attack



Throwing up or coughing up blood



Stroke



Confusion or hallucinations

- You should also *call your PCP* within 24 hours after you go to the ER. Your PCP will make sure you get the *follow-up care* you need.

URGENT CARE



An urgent health problem is an illness or injury that will not cause disability or death if not treated quickly. An urgent health problem still needs fast medical care to keep it from getting worse. Go to your Primary Care Provider (PCP) or Urgent Care if you have any of the following symptoms.



Ear infection



Allergic reaction (non-life threatening)



Cough, cold or sore throat



Fever higher than 100 degrees



Sprains



Minor burns



Rashes

- You can *call Meridian* at **888-437-0606** **Monday – Friday** from **8 a.m. – 8 p.m.** or visit www.mhplan.com for *help finding a PCP or Urgent Care near you.*

WHY CHOOSE URGENT CARE OVER THE ER?



Get the care you need faster

The average ER has a wait time of over 2 hours. Most Urgent Care centers see patients within 15-45 minutes.



More locations near you

There are about 4,874 ERs in the U.S. There are over 9,300 Urgent Care centers in the U.S.

Sources: www.cdc.gov
www.urgentcarelocations.com

