

Emergency Care vs. Urgent Care

When to use...



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
- ✓ Broken bones
- ✓ Heart attack
- ✓ Stroke
- ✓ Knife or gunshot wound (or severe bleeding)
- ✓ Chest pain or severe breathing problems
- ✓ Throwing up or coughing up blood
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Cough, cold or sore throat
- ✓ Sprains
- ✓ Rashes
- ✓ Allergic reaction (non-life threatening)
- ✓ Fever higher than 100 degrees
- ✓ Minor burns

You can call Meridian at **1-888-437-0606** Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. or visit **mimeridian.com** for help finding a PCP or Urgent Care near you.

(continued)

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