

WHEN TO GO TO **Urgent Care vs. the Emergency Department**

When you or a loved one is suddenly injured or feeling very sick, there's a critical decision to make - do you need to go to urgent care or the emergency room? Denver Health offers five urgent care locations including one on the main campus, and an Emergency Department open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

WHEN TO GO TO Urgent Care

Denver Health's Urgent Cares are designed to be an alternative to the Emergency Department when your regular doctor is not available. Our Adult Ugent Care Center on the Denver Health campus is open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. every day.

Urgent care for adults treats a wide range of sudden illnesses and injuries that would normally be treated at the doctor's office, but require more immediate medical attention.

Go to urgent care when you are suffering from:

- Minor fractures
- Sprains
- Severe colds, flu and fevers
- Coughs and asthma
- Sore throats, earaches Skin rashes and other respiratory problems
- Minor cuts and abrasions

- Back, joint or muscle pain
- Abdominal pain
- Minor bicycle or scooter injuries
- Alleraic reactions
- Altitude sickness
- Gynecologic problems
- Urinary symptoms

WHEN TO GO TO THE Emergency Department

Head injuries, serious broken bones, chest pain or difficulty breathing, and serious illnesses and injuries that need treatment right away are all reasons to visit an emergency room.

The Emergency Department at Denver Health treats medical conditions that can require rapid or advanced treatments (including surgery) that are only available in a hospital setting.

Go to the emergency room when you are suffering from any of the following:

- Sudden numbness in your face, arms or legs
- Sudden change in vision
- Serious head, neck or back injury
- Difficulty breathing
- Bleeding that won't stop
- Chest pain or pressure
- Severe burn
- Seizure or fainting
- Poisoning



If you think you are having an emergency, call 911 immediately.