

Urgent Care Definition

Urgent Care bridges the gap between primary care and emergency care, providing evaluation and care for urgent, but not emergency conditions. An urgent care center typically delivers medical care for minor illnesses and injuries in an ambulatory medical facility outside of a traditional emergency department (ED), whether hospital-based or freestanding.

"Urgent care services" mean: 1) a medical examination, diagnosis, and treatment for non-life or limb-threatening illnesses and injuries that are within the capability of an urgent care center which accepts unscheduled, walk-in patients seeking medical attention during posted hours of operation and is supported by onsite evaluation services, and may include radiology and laboratory services; and 2) any further medical examination, procedure, and treatment to the extent they are within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the urgent care center. By offering same-day ambulatory health care, urgent care centers are capable of providing, though not limited to, on-demand and scheduled medical, wellness, and screening services for employers, injured workers, the commercially insured, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, self-insured employers and patients seeking cash-pay options.

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