

# Know the facts about freestanding ERs.

## What is a freestanding emergency room?

Freestanding ERs are similar to hospital emergency rooms. They are open 24/7/365, including holidays, and the new Texas Health Emergency Room locations are staffed with emergency-trained, board-certified physicians. They also include on-site labs, and digital imaging suites that include a CT scanner, digital X-ray and ultrasound equipment. One difference is an ambulance will not take you to a freestanding ER.

## What are some advantages of freestanding emergency rooms?

Freestanding ERs are always open and have little to no wait times. Texas Health ERs operate as hospital outpatient departments, which means that unlike some other freestanding ERs, they accept the same insurance that our traditional hospital ERs take. With multiple locations, freestanding ERs may also be more convenient than your nearest hospital ER.

## When should I go to a freestanding emergency room?

Freestanding ERs can treat a variety of medical issues, including intense abdominal pain, head injuries, broken bones, poisoning, chemical exposure, moderate to severe burns, complex lacerations, non-healing wounds, eye and nasal injuries, moderate to severe respiratory distress, sudden difficulty speaking, sudden weakness, seizures, allergic reactions and other critical emergencies.

## Should I go to a freestanding emergency room or call 9-1-1?

If you think you are having a heart attack or stroke, always call 9-1-1. If you are unable to drive or do not have someone to drive you, call 9-1-1. When you call 9-1-1, you will be taken to a hospital ER. Otherwise, freestanding ERs are an excellent choice in an emergency.

## Is a freestanding emergency room the same as a freestanding urgent care clinic?

No. Freestanding ERs deliver care for critical emergencies. Urgent care clinics diagnose and treat minor illnesses such as the flu, headaches and sinus infections, as well as other non-life-threatening injuries, such as minor burns, cuts and sprains. Typically, urgent care clinics are not open 24/7, are not staffed by emergency-trained physicians, and do not have radiology equipment such as CT scanners or ultrasound machines.

## How much does a freestanding emergency room cost?

Expect your cost for care to be what you would pay in our traditional hospital ERs. No matter your insurance, the cost of visiting a freestanding emergency room will be greater than a trip to an urgent care clinic or doctor's office. For this reason, you should thoughtfully evaluate whether your injury or illness is a true emergency before choosing a freestanding emergency room.

