

Minor Emergency Clinics Overview

What you need to know:

- Patients who do not have a life-threatening condition can usually save time and money by using a Minor Emergency Clinic as an alternative to a Hospital's emergency room.
- Minor Emergency Clinics offer convenient walk-in medical assistance.
- Instant health care solution for families and individuals who can not immediately see their primary care doctor, are visiting from out of town, or are new to the area.
- Many clinics also offer services such as childhood and adult vaccinations, pregnancy tests and flu shots.

Urgent Care Association of America

To locate an UCAOA member, visit:
www.ucaoa.org/ucaoa_orgs.php

To find the locations of Minor Emergency Clinics near you, visit:

www.findurgentcare.com
www.gourgentcare.com
www.concentra.com
www.urgentcarenetwork.com

Inside select CVS Pharmacy Stores
<http://minuteclinic.com>

Overview:

Advantages

- Emergency Care Clinics are convenient. They are usually located at shopping centers, grocery stores and drugstores.
- The ones located inside a drugstore allow patients to fill their prescriptions immediately, without making a separate trip.
- Emergency Care Clinics are usually open on after hours and weekends. Some are open 24hrs.
- Not needing an appointment allows patients to get treatment in a more timely fashion, before minor problems escalate into major ones.

Disadvantages

- The staff is mostly constituted of nurse practitioners and health technicians, not Doctors.
- The medical records are not centralized, which means the clinics do not have access to the patient's complete health history. This may cause problems with conflicting prescription medications.

Major Difference Between "Traditional" and "Minor Emergency" Clinics

	Traditional Settings	Retail Settings
Planning	Appointment-based	No appointment needed
Providers	Primary care physician	Nurses and physician assistants
Continuity Record System	Primary care physician every time. Physician-centered	Different provider every visit. Patient-centered
Scope	Broad variety of ailments	Simplest and most common ailments
Patient role	Seeks treatment in general	Chooses a specific treatment