

When to go to the Emergency Room

Make sure you use the right facility for the right care and you will have a better outcome at a lower cost!

As your children's medical home, we want to make sure you get the right care in the right place. Going to an emergency room for a strep throat can cost as much as \$1500, usually with a very costly co-pay and deductible. The same condition can be treated in our office for less than \$100, with your out of pocket cost usually no more than \$30.

There are times when you know you have an emergency and a hospital emergency room is the only place to go. We do recommend the pediatric ER at Inova Fairfax Hospital on Gallows Road. The kinds of problems that may need emergency care:

- Severe and persistent abdominal and pain
- Trauma with broken bones or bleeding that won't stop
- Concussions, especially with loss of consciousness
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe drowsiness, difficulty waking up or confusion
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck with fever and headache
- Suspected poisoning or drug overdose
- Vomiting that will not stop
- Animal bites

After hours, when the office is closed, we feel an urgent care center is the first choice when your child is ill and needs to be seen. Remember, our office has a advice nurse phone line during office hours and one of our clinicians on call when the office is closed to help you decide how to best care for your sick child

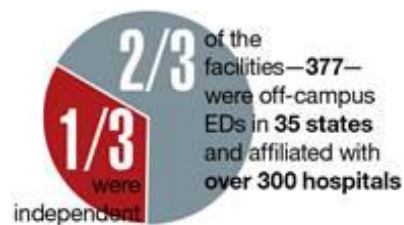
Most pediatric illness is not an emergency and can be seen the next day in our office. If you are not sure, call the clinician on-call at 703-573-2432 (with the options or just at VAPG). Our website (www.vapg.com) also has care plans for many common problems ([link to clear triage](#))

We have confidence in Inova pediatric urgent care centers (Chantilly, Springfield, and Vienna) and Patient First after hours clinics. Most do X-rays, basic laboratory testing, and suturing. Your co-pay and the cost of care at an urgent care is likely to cost more than at our office.

580 Number of stand-alone EDs as of 2017

MORE THAN 200 Independent free-standing EDs operate in Colorado, Ohio and Texas

Number of free-standing EDs in Dallas

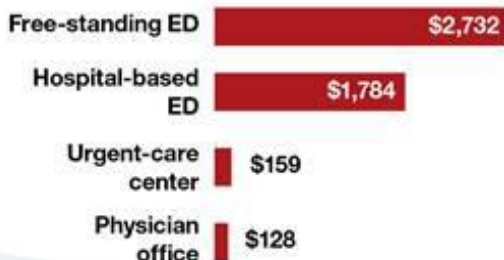


—Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

An estimated **93%** of free-standing EDs in Texas charge a facility fee, adding an average of over **\$1,000** per visit

—UnitedHealth Group analysis of commercial claims data

Average cost in 2016 of treating strep throat at a Texas:



Stand-alone EDs are found in ZIP codes with higher median household incomes (2015):

- In ZIP codes with stand-alone EDs
- In ZIP codes without stand-alone EDs



—Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

