

# EMERGENCY ROOM VS. PRIMARY CARE

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS CAN BE MORE CONVENIENT, LESS EXPENSIVE AND EQUALLY EFFECTIVE



## THE COST OF UNNECESSARY EMERGENCY ROOM USE

The majority of conditions treated in an emergency room setting are preventable or can be managed by a primary care physician. The unnecessary use of emergency rooms for non-emergency conditions is expensive for not only hospitals, but also for patients. In most cases, patients can receive the same convenience and quality care through a primary care provider.

## WHEN TO VISIT A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

If someone has a minor illness or injury they should contact their primary care physician to schedule an appointment. This includes individuals who need to schedule routine health exams or would like assistance managing chronic illnesses. Primary care provides the ideal place to treat conditions such as:

- Sore throats
- Urinary tract infection
- Rashes
- Minor burns
- Bronchitis
- Allergic reactions
- Minor cuts or lacerations
- Ear infections
- Colds, cough, flu, fever
- Nausea
- Immunizations
- Sprains or strains

## WHEN TO VISIT THE EMERGENCY ROOM

If you feel that someone has an injury or condition that could pose significant harm to a person's life or health, you should have them seek immediate medical attention by visiting the nearest emergency room. Hospital emergency rooms are the ideal places to treat conditions such as:

- Broken bones
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Seizures
- Severe burns
- Chest pain
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Major head injuries
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Severe abdominal pain
- Relentless headaches
- Pneumonia
- Fainting, dizziness or unconsciousness