

## Which One Should You Go To?

Making the right choice could save your life.



### When Should You Go To The ER?

#### Examples Include:

- Broken bones and dislocated joints
- Deep cuts that require stitches – especially on the face
- Head or eye injuries
- Severe flu or cold symptoms
- Sudden change in mental state
- High fevers
- Fevers with rash
- Fevers in infants
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Severe pain, particularly in the abdomen or starting halfway down the back
- Bleeding that won't stop or a large open wound
- Vaginal bleeding with pregnancy
- Repeated vomiting
- Serious burns
- Seizures without a previous diagnosis of epilepsy



### When Should You Go To Urgent Care?

#### Examples Include:

- Symptom onset is gradual
- You already know the diagnosis but are unable to get a same-day appointment with your primary care physician
- Conditions that are not life- or limb- threatening, but require immediate care
- Sprains
- Sore throat
- Urinary tract infections
- Mild asthma
- Rash without fever
- Broken bones of the wrist, hand, ankle or foot that have no obvious need to reset and have not broken the skin

## When Should You Call 9-1-1?

#### Examples Include:



Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing



Life- or limb-threatening injury



Any symptoms of a heart attack including chest pain, pain in the left arm or the jaw, sudden weakness or dizziness



Signs of a stroke such as slurred speech, severe headache, weakness or numbness on one side of the face or body, or loss of consciousness

## About The Emergency Room



In 2011, there were approximately 136.3 million emergency room visits in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>



The most common reason people went to the emergency room was stomach and abdominal pain.<sup>1</sup>



The average cost of an emergency room visit is \$1,423.<sup>2</sup>

## If In Doubt, Get Emergency Care!

<sup>1</sup>Center for Disease Control's National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Fact Sheet: Emergency Department 2011

<sup>2</sup>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Medical Expenditure Panel Survey 2013