## **Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room**



A Patient Quick Reference Guide

This is a quick reference guide to help you determine whether you require urgent care or other emergency services.

## **Come to Urgent Care for:**

### **Injuries**

- Minor laceration repair
- Fractures, sprains, sports injuries
- Cuts, abrasions and scrapes
- Minor eye injuries

## **Gastro and Urinary**

- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- Minor stomach pain and constipation
- Hemorrhoids
- Urinary tract infections

#### Skin

- Skin infections
- Contact with poisonous plants
- Rashes

# **Go to the Emergency Room for:**

- Acute chest pain, suspected cardiac event, palpitations
- Abdominal pain (usually needs CT or US to diagnose)
- Compound or extremely painful fractures
- Stroke symptoms: Sudden dizziness, loss of coordination or balance, numbness/weakness in arm/leg, difficulty speaking
- Severe shortness of breath, O2 sats < 90%
- "Worst headache of my life," sudden onset
- Pregnancy-related issues
- Sudden vision changes
- Suspected drug overdose
- Assault or abuse cases

## **Respiratory and Sinus**

- Cough, colds and influenza
- Sore throat, strep throat
- Upper respiratory infections, bronchitis
- Sinus infections
- Ear infections
- Allergies
- Asthma exacerbations

#### **Other**

- Minor gynecological problems
- Chest pain due to injury
- Headaches/migraines
- · Back or neck aches
- Nosebleeds
- Vomiting blood or rectal bleeding
- Psychiatric crisis/interventions
- Severe burns
- Pediatric sedation
- Acute respiratory distress
- Infants younger than three (3) months
- Seizures
- Lacerations that are large, will not stop bleeding
- Traumatic loss of a limb or digit
- Head injury or fall with loss of consciousness
- Large, infected wounds

## **Please Note:**

Urgent Care does not perform advanced imaging such as CT/MRI/US or administer treatments like IV fluids. If you present to Urgent Care with a condition that needs to be treated in the Emergency Room, we will stabilize the patient and call 911.