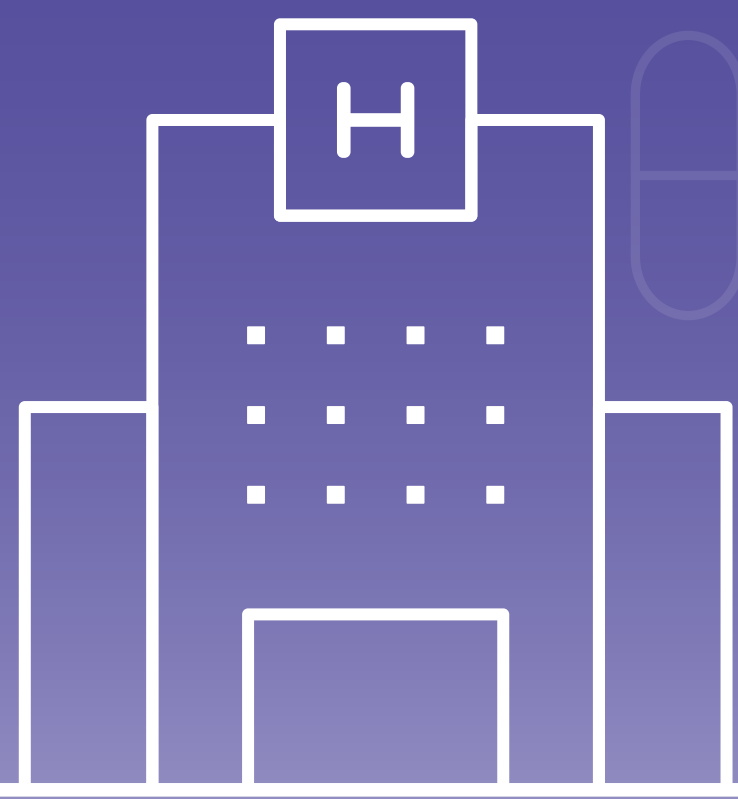


EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

VS.

IMMEDIATE CARE CENTER

Where to seek care for injuries and illnesses



CALL 9-1-1 IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, SUCH AS:

- + **Severe bleeding**
- + **Severe chest pain or shortness of breath**
- + **Severe injury**
- + **Heart attack symptoms:** Severe chest pain with nausea, shortness of breath, dizziness, fatigue or cold sweat
- + **Symptoms of stroke:** Facial drooping, arm weakness or speech difficulties
- + **Suicidal behavior** that causes an immediate threat to safety
- + **Impaired vision**



YOU SHOULD BE TREATED IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOR:

- Asthma – moderate to severe
- Head injuries with loss of consciousness or seizures
- Abdominal pain that doesn't go away after a few hours
- Seizure
- Amputations, deep wounds or severe burns
- Poisoning or overdose
- Severe allergic reaction
- Persistent head pain
- Altered mental state
- Vaginal bleeding with pregnancy
- Fever with a rash
- Multiple injuries
- Physical or sexual assault
- Severe depression
- Persistent diarrhea or profuse vomiting
- Broken bones and dislocated joints



YOU SHOULD SEE AN IMMEDIATE CARE PROVIDER IN PERSON OR ONLINE FOR:

- Cold and flu symptoms
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sinus pain
- Minor cuts, sprains and burns
- Pink eye
- Animal bites or insect stings
- Urinary tract infections
- Skin problems
- Foreign objects in the eyes, nose or ears
- Earache
- Fever without a rash
- Vaccination, such as flu, COVID-19 and tetanus
- Back or joint pain
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea



Northwestern Medicine Immediate Care Centers offer online reservations and virtual visits seven days a week.

Sources:

Northwestern Memorial Hospital Emergency Department
Northwestern Medicine Immediate Care Centers