



Q & A: Immediate Care vs. Emergency Room

Q: If I need to see a doctor right away, how do I know whether to go to the emergency room or an immediate care facility?

A: When you need to be seen emergently and your physician is not available, you have two options: visit an immediate care office or the emergency room.

St.Vincent Physician Network offers urgent care at St.Vincent Immediate Care. This office specializes in treating a disease, illness or injury when presented on an episodic basis. Common conditions treated and services offered include:

- Minor breaks, fractures, sprains or strains
- Abdominal pain
- Minor back pain
- Upset stomach, vomiting or diarrhea
- Urinary tract infections
- Eye infections
- Allergies
- Sinus infections
- Colds, cough, sore throat or flu-like symptoms
- Dizziness
- Earaches
- Fevers
- Insect or animal bites
- Rashes
- On-site x-ray and lab services
- Tetanus and flu shots

If you feel that your condition is life-threatening or you have any of the following symptoms or conditions, you should immediately seek care at the Emergency Room.

- Chest pain
- Heart attack symptoms
- Serious breathing difficulties
- Major burns
- Major fractures
- Severe head injury
- Severe headache
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Severe abdominal pain
- Unconsciousness
- Shock
- Spinal injuries

St.Vincent Immediate Care provides prompt medical care for patients of all ages. Office hours are 9am – 9pm on weekdays and 9am – 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. No appointment is necessary, making it convenient for out-of-town visitors or those whose family doctor is not available.

--St. Vincent Physician Network offers 23 convenient locations throughout central Indiana. To find a St. Vincent Physician Network office near you, call 317.356.CARE or visit us online at physiciannetwork.stvincent.org.