



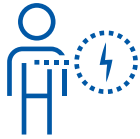
Injured or Sick?

Emergency Room

Think twice before going straight to the emergency department.

Many health issues are often best managed by a primary care provider, in an urgent care center, or in a health center, including:

Back pain



Sprains and strains



Small cuts that may require stitches



Coughs and congestion



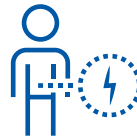
Sore throat



Low-grade fevers and other mild flu symptoms



Upset stomach



Medication refills
Contact the original prescriber



For lists of primary care providers, urgent care centers, and health centers, visit health.ri.gov/rightplace.

Hospital emergency departments in Rhode Island are currently very crowded.

Children and adults in emergency departments with less serious health issues are experiencing long wait times.

However, some health issues do need emergency medical care (either by calling 911 or going to the emergency department). Examples include trouble breathing; persistent chest pain; new difficulty speaking or confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; heavy bleeding; deep wounds; serious burns; possible broken bones (especially if the bone is pushing through the skin); and severe allergic reactions.

This is not a complete list of health issues that require emergency medical care.

For more information, see health.ri.gov/rightplace.