



## Where Should I Go for...? Doctor's Office vs. Urgent Care vs. Retail Clinic

When you need medical attention, should you visit your primary care physician, an urgent care center, or a retail clinic? Each facility is geared toward certain types of medical care, though some issues may overlap among each.

**Doctor's Office.** A primary care medical office is intended to provide preventative and ongoing care. That said, their hours are usually limited compared to retail clinics and urgent care centers.

**Urgent Care Center.** Urgent care centers provide a more convenient and affordable alternative to hospital ERs, and more advanced services and longer hours of availability compared to a typical doctor's office.

**Retail Clinic.** These medical clinics are conveniently located within retail stores and supermarkets. They are usually staffed by physician assistants or nurse practitioners and typically cost less than a traditional doctor's visit.

Here are some common services offered at each of the following care settings to help you determine where to go when you have a medical need.

Doctor's Office	Urgent Care Center	Retail Clinic
Vaccinations	X-Rays	Cold and flu symptoms, such as sore throat, fever, cough
Physicals	Casting	Earaches and infections
Check-ups	Stitches	Sprains, strains, and simple fractures
Screenings	Sprains	Pink eye
Blood work	Allergies	Minor cuts
Disease management	Asthma	Minor burns
Referrals to specialists	Cold and flu symptoms	Non-serious allergic reactions
	Bladder issues	Rashes
	Joint pain	Insect bites
	Blood pressure problems	Vomiting and diarrhea
	Headaches	Urinary tract infections
	Abdominal pain	
	Sinus issues	
	Abscesses	
	Minor cuts	
	Minor burns	

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