

Freestanding ERs: What to Know

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Hopefully you can limit your amount of trips to the emergency room (ER) or avoid them altogether, but we understand that unexpected, and sometimes urgent health issues arise and seeking immediate care becomes necessary. Pressing health concerns may not allow for much time to map out your next potential trip to a medical facility, so it is important to plan ahead for the unforeseeable future. While many tend to believe that ERs are all the same, there is actually a significant difference when it comes to what your health care covers and what you will be billed for.

In cases where you have to visit an ER, call the facility before you visit and determine if it's a freestanding ER or if it's affiliated with a hospital. Most hospital-affiliated ERs are in-network, while freestanding ERs are largely independent and not in your network. You may pay significantly more in out-of-pocket medical costs by visiting a freestanding ER.

