

Maryland Medical Assistance Program
Urgent Care Facilities

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Urgent Care Definitions

Urgent care is the delivery of ambulatory care, such as acute illness or minor traumas, in a facility dedicated to the delivery of unscheduled, walk-in care outside of a hospital emergency room department, a freestanding clinic, or a physician's office.

Free-standing urgent care facility is distinct from a hospital emergency room, a physician's office, or a free-standing clinic, whose purpose is to diagnose and treat illness or injury for unscheduled, ambulatory patients seeking immediate medical attention.

Other Ambulatory Healthcare Facilities

Urgent care facilities are distinguished from other similar types of ambulatory healthcare facilities.

Emergency Rooms

Emergency rooms are located within hospitals and are prepared to care for patients suffering true emergencies, such as myocardial infarctions ("heart attacks"), serious motor vehicle accidents, suicide attempts, and other such life-threatening conditions. Being located within a hospital, these centers are positioned to provide ready access to major surgeries and critical care units. Emergency rooms are usually staffed by physicians with specialized training or board certification in emergency medicine. Most states in the USA require all hospitals to house an emergency room on the hospital campus.

A few states in the USA allow freestanding emergency room facilities to be built outside of hospital-regulated space. Many authorities would consider this type of facility to be a high-acuity urgent care center, rather than a true emergency department.

Mid-level provider offices in retail stores

In 2004, medical treatment began to be offered at small offices in retail stores with onsite pharmacies. These offices are generally staffed with nurse practitioners or physician assistants. Prices are generally posted in public view and patients can do shopping while waiting. Some experts consider these medical treatment sites to be the wave of the future in light of consumer driven health plan options, such as the Health Savings Accounts. These retail clinics are not true urgent care centers because of the limited level of care that can be provided without having a physician or x-ray facilities on site.

How to Obtain a Medicaid Urgent Care Facility Provider Number

To obtain a Medicaid urgent care facility provider number you must complete the application process via the Department's electronic Provider Revalidation and Enrollment Portal (ePREP) portal at <https://eprep.health.maryland.gov>.

The Maryland Medicaid provider type for an urgent care facility is (08).

Obtain a copy of the CLIA certificate and Maryland State Laboratory Permit and upload it along with your completed application into ePREP.

Obtain a copy of your Radiation Machine Facility Registration and Certification issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment or x-ray certification from the state in which you practice and upload it along with your completed application into ePREP.

If you have any questions about the process to enroll in the Maryland Medicaid Program, please contact the Call Center at 1-844-4MD-PROV (1-844-463-7768).

For any questions regarding regulatory requirements concerning Urgent Care Facilities, please visit <http://www.dsd.state.md.us> website, then go to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) **10.09.77 Urgent Care Centers**. You may also contact Earl Tucker at earl.tucker@maryland.gov.

Urgent Care Facility Coding and Reimbursement

Services rendered in an urgent care center should be designated, using the place of service code - 20 (POS -20) and the appropriate CPT codes on the CMS-1500 form, when submitted to third-party payers.

Reimbursement will be provided for evaluation and management procedures as well as some minor surgical procedures, such as minor lacerations, burns, or fractures.

There is no separate fee schedule for urgent care services. Urgent care providers are reimbursed according to the current Professional Services Fee Schedule and Medical Laboratory, which can be found on the Department's website <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Provider-Information.aspx>.

Procedure code S9088 should be coded in addition to the evaluation and management and surgical procedure codes. An additional reimbursement amount of \$50.00 will be paid to urgent care providers as a facility fee when S9088 is reported.

Note: Your organization must include the Urgent Care Facility provider number and NPI on all bills in order to be reimbursed appropriately.

DO NOT indicate rendering provider numbers/NPIs on the claim, as this will generate an edit to deny the claim.