

# IS THIS AN EMERGENCY?

***You should always call your primary care physician (PCP) first when you have a medical problem unless it is severe or life-threatening.***

When you are sick or injured and your primary care physician is not available, you may wonder whether you should go to a hospital emergency department or an urgent care clinic. The following information will help you make the best choice for your health care needs.



## **Urgent care clinics:**

- Focus on diagnosing and treating conditions that aren't life-threatening yet need to be taken care of right away
- Offer quality care on a walk-in basis
- Have extended evening and weekend hours
- Typically have radiology and laboratory services available

***If your primary care physician is not available, go to an urgent care clinic if you have:***

- Common illnesses
- Colds or flu
- Earaches
- Eye infections
- Fevers and flu
- Headaches
- Minor injuries, lacerations and bruises
- Moderate back problems
- Sinus infection
- Skin rashes and infections
- Sore throat and cough
- Sprains and strains
- Stomach ailments
- Urinary tract infections
- Most other minor injuries and illnesses that are not life-threatening

## **Hospital emergency departments:**

- Treat severe and life-threatening conditions
- Have specially trained doctors, paramedics, nurses and other support staff that can recognize, diagnose and make recommendations on a wide variety of medical issues
- Are open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year

***Go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have:***

- Chest pain
- Sudden or severe pain in other areas
- Abdominal pain
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Deep cuts or bleeding that won't stop
- Difficulty breathing
- Sudden blurred vision
- Sudden dizziness, weakness or loss of coordination or balance
- Signs of stroke – numbness in face, arm or leg
- Severe bleeding
- Sudden severe headache
- Seizures
- High fevers
- A head injury
- Other major trauma or injury
- Any other condition you believe is life-threatening

***Go to your primary care physician if you have:***

- Common illnesses such as colds, flu, earaches, sore throats, migraines, fever, rashes, urinary tract infections, depression, dizziness or headaches
- Minor injuries such as sprains, back pain, minor cuts and burns, minor broken bones or minor eye injuries
- Regular physicals, prescription refills, vaccinations and screenings
- A health issue where you need advice

Hours of operation are during regular business hours, and may include evening or weekend hours.

## **For urgent care services on Kaua'i, visit**

**Kaua'i Medical Clinic – Kaua'i Urgent Care**  
4484 Pahe'e Street  
Līhu'e, HI 96766  
Phone: 808-245-1532

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information, visit [wilcoxhealth.org](http://wilcoxhealth.org)

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