

Comparison of Various Care Models

Care Model	Size (number of beds)	Inpatient Capacity	Staff Capability	Equipment	Acuity Level	EMTALA (patients must be treated regardless of their ability to pay for services)	Services	Hours of Operation	Wait time for ED	Average cost for ED
Acute Care General Hospital (With Emergency Department)	Range 4 - 1,129 beds (in Maryland)	Yes	Emergency trained and certified physicians, RNs, and other health professionals	Equipment to provide advanced life support	High, moderate, and low acuity	Yes	Various inpatient and outpatient services	24 hours/7 days a week	Maryland avg. wait time (2014) was 367 min. ¹	Average ED cost (MEPS 2011) \$1,354 ²
Freestanding Medical Facility Model in Maryland (Freestanding ED)		No	Emergency trained and certified physicians, RNs, and other health professionals	Equipment to provide life support	moderate to low acuity	Yes	Emergency services	24 hours/7 days a week	60-90 minutes	
Micro-hospital Model (often collaborate with another hospital or health system)	4-15 (Usually 8-12 beds) Usually 15,000-50,000 sq. ft.	Yes	Emergency trained and certified physicians, RNs, and other health professionals	Equipment to provide life support	Usually low acuity	Yes	Various inpatient and outpatient services usually adapted to service area needs	24 hours/7 days a week	Information not available	priced higher than urgent care centers, they are still less expensive than a full-service hospital
Urgent Care Model (no single standard, emphasizes convenience and lower costs)		No	Physicians may not be board certified in emergency medicine ³ May also include PAs and NPs	Not required to have special equipment	Low acuity	No (Urgent care centers may not accept certain insurances and may ask for payment before services are rendered ⁴)	Low acuity urgent care	Majority are open 12 hours a day from 8am until 8pm ⁵	Patients often seen within 30 min.	\$150 average

¹ American College of Emergency Physicians (2014). America's Emergency Care Environment, A State-by-State Report Card- 2014.

² Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (2011) <http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/>

³ American College of Emergency Physicians Fact Sheet on Urgent Care. Retrieved 1/22/15 from <http://www.acep.org/>

⁴ MedPage Today (9/9/12) Urgent Care Centers Booming, Docs Worried Retrieved from <http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/GeneralProfessionalIssues/34854>

⁵ McNeeley, S. (2012). Urgent Care Centers: An Overview. *American Journal of Clinical Medicine*. Summer 2012 9(2) 80-81.

