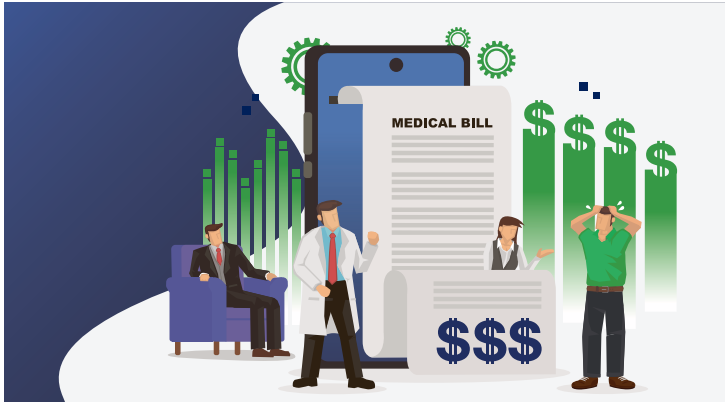


Freestanding emergency rooms cost up to 22 times more than other sites of service. It is important to understand your options.



Busy hospital ERs, coupled with consumer demand for easy access to health care services, has fueled explosive growth of alternatives, primarily free-standing emergency departments (FSEDs) and urgent care centers. But their convenience comes at a cost—to you.

Most services, particularly radiology, can be handled at a much lower cost site of care: the doctor's office, urgent care center or a freestanding imaging facility.

If you've met your deductible, the cost may not matter to you. If your health plan is self-funded, it does matter to your employer as high health care costs impact ability to increase wages and other benefits. But most of us haven't met our deductibles—and won't—so when seeking sites of care, it is important to fully understand your choices.

See the primer on the back to learn more about the various sites of service, and take a look left for some sobering statistics.

You'll also find an introduction to companies like Green Imaging, patient advocates who offer easy, affordable medical imaging. In fact, Green Imaging may be part of your health plan. Ask your employer to be sure.

SOBERING STATISTICS

- Services at FSEDs are reported to be up 22 times more than at a physician office and 19 times more than at an Urgent Care Center. The 'facility' fee at an FSED can be over \$1,000 per visit.
- In a Texas-based study, FSEDs have approximately 1.4 million visits/year—20% are for the top ten non-emergency conditions that could have been handled at a lower cost site of service.
- In a New York-based study, 25 of the most common conditions for ER visits are treatable in the primary care setting.
- In the same New York study, more than half of the 7 million visits in 2018 could have been treated at a lower cost site of service.
- Consumer out-of-pocket responsibility at an FSED averages over \$800; the bill for the same condition treated in a physician office, urgent care center or freestanding imaging facility averaged less than \$100.
- X-ray services for the most common conditions averages \$785 at FSEDs versus just \$26 at a physician office or freestanding imaging facility.

THE GOOD NEWS

Innovative providers are helping employers by providing the same high-quality care at fair, affordable prices. Adding a bolt-on plan like Green Imaging to traditional insurance benefits gives members faster, easier access to and more affordable medical care, ultimately leading to better outcomes... and happier employees.

Site of service primer

HOSPITAL ER (\$\$\$)

Treats life- or limb-threatening conditions; the best option when you require immediate medical attention.

Pros:

- Open 24/7 + holidays
- Immediate Care
- Expertise to handle most medical emergencies

Considerations:

- Most expensive option
- Fees: triage fee + facility fee + physician fee
- No price transparency; you don't know your cost until you get the bill
- Hospital itself may not be "in-network"
- Even if hospital is 'in-network,' ER physician, radiologist, etc. may not be

FREESTANDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS (FSEDS) (\$\$\$)

Owned by hospitals or independent organizations; licensed to deliver emergency care but do not provide critical services such as trauma or stroke, and may not have operating rooms.

Pros:

- Open 24 hours/holidays
- Immediate care
- Walk-in convenience
- Expertise to handle many medical emergencies

Considerations:

- Fees: facility fee + physician fee
- Facility, physicians may not be 'in-network'
- Limited cost transparency; depends on staff expertise and willingness

URGENT CARE CENTER (\$\$)

Fill the gap between hospital ER and physician's office/freestanding medical facility by offering immediate treatment for non-life-threatening emergencies. Similar services as FSED.

Pros:

- Open 24 hours/holidays
- Immediate care
- Walk-in convenience

Considerations:

- Lower cost than hospital ER and FSED
- Fees: facility fee + physician fee
- Facility, physicians may not be 'in-network'
- Limited cost transparency; depends on staff expertise and willingness

GREEN IMAGING (\$) (and other 'free-market' health care providers)

Pros:

- Least expensive site of service for radiology
- Your employer may offer services at \$0 out-of-pocket
- For self-pay, cost can be up to 3x less (or even more!) than hospital setting
- Function as your advocate as they navigate the health care system on your behalf
- Complete price transparency; quote a firm, bundled price that includes the facility and the provider fee

Considerations:

- Expertise to handle most medical imaging but not optimal site of service for truly emergent situations

BOOKING YOUR APPOINTMENT COULDN'T BE EASIER

Text our Patient Concierge, and include a picture of your physician order, your zip code and your best availability. We'll take it from there and schedule your appointment quickly and efficiently.



TEXT: 713.524.9190
EMAIL: info@greenimaging.net
CALL: 844.968.4647

FEEDBACK LIKE THIS GIVES US AN **AVERAGE 4.8 STARS** ON GOOGLE REVIEWS

Dilshad (5/3/22) *****

"I cannot thank Green Imaging ENOUGH for securing me an appointment for an MRI of my lower spine. They got me an appointment with LIVE HEALTHY IMAGING in Bellaire and the technicians were FANTASTIC. Words cannot express my gratitude to the team and staff at this state-of-the-art Imaging clinic."

Excerpted from:
 talktomira.com: "Emergency Room Visit Cost Without Insurance in 2022." Alyssa Corso, April 17, 2022.
 revcycleintelligence.com "Freestanding Emergency Departments Cost 22 Times More Than Doctor."
 Jaqueline LaPointe, March 13, 2019.