

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

# Use your benefits wisely - ER or Urgent Care?

It's 9 p.m. when your child comes down with a fever and you suspect an ear infection. In the past, you had two unappealing options: wait until the morning when the pediatrician's office opens or go to the emergency room.

However, there's another alternative for treatment of minor illnesses and injuries - urgent care facilities.

Not only will the co-pay be \$5 instead of \$25 for an emergency room visit, chances are your wait will be shorter.

Obtaining proper treatment is the most significant consideration in health care, but it's also important to be an educated consumer. Urgent care facilities fit the bill for many situations.

A trip to the ER is imperative for emergencies such as sudden loss of consciousness, severe bleeding, suspected heart attack or abdominal pain. However, urgent care facilities are ideal for people with minor problems that could worsen if not treated.

Located throughout the metro-Detroit area, these clinics are open during the evening and weekend hours when most physician offices are closed.

Visiting an urgent care facility instead of the ER is one of the ways employees can help control the skyrocketing cost of benefits. Inappropriate and excessive use of the emergency room, for non-emergencies or routine care, results in higher medical premiums through higher medical costs. An average emergency room visit is \$400 to \$1,000.

Following are urgent care facilities in Macomb and Oakland counties:

## HAP Urgent Care Facilities (Macomb and Oakland counties)

## Clarkston Ambulatory Care Center

(248) 625-2273 6770 Dixie Hwy., Suite 200 Clarkston

*Crittenton Pediatric Urgent Care Center* (248) 652-5494 1101 W. University Rochester

**DMC - Urgent Care Center – Novi** (248) 347-8000 41935 W. 12 Mile Road Novi

## HealthFirst Medical Center

(248) 693-9040 1251 S. Lapeer Road, Suite 121 Lake Orion

Health One Medical Center – Eastpointe (586) 776-4185 21225 Kelly Road #4 Eastpointe

POH Oxford After Hours Center (248) 628-3000 385 N. Lapeer Road Oxford **Prompt Care I** (586) 725-9600

(586) 725-9600 32901 23 Mile Road, Suite 120 New Baltimore

*Prompt Care II* (586) 228-3880 43900 Garfield, Suite 121 Clinton Township

## Prompt Care III

(586) 677-3355 8180 26 Mile Road Shelby Township

Rochester Medical Group (248) 844-6000 3950 S. Rochester Road Rochester Hills

## **Rochester Urgent Care**

(248) 853-2009 215 E. Auburn Road Rochester Hills

*St. John Medical Center - Romeo Plank* (586) 226-6000 46591 Romeo Plank #131 Macomb

#### *St. John Regional Medical Center* (586) 447-5130 21000 12 Mile Road

21000 12 Mile Road St. Clair Shores

## St. Joseph Mercy Chesterfield Health Center

(586) 421-3050 30795 23 Mile Road Chesterfield Township

*St. Joseph Mercy Fraser* (586) 285-3850 15717 15 Mile Road Clinton Township

## St. Joseph Mercy North

(586) 798-8551 80650 Van Dyke Romeo

#### **Blue Cross/Blue Shield Urgent Care Facilities**

*Crittenton Hospital Crittenton Pediatrics Urgent Care* (248) 652-5000 1101 W. University Drive Rochester

*Kern Hospital Kern Hospital and Medical Center* (586) 427-1000 21230 Dequindre Road Warren

#### Mount Clemens General Hospital

**Prompt Care I** (586) 725-9600 32901 23 Mile Road New Baltimore

#### Mount Clemens General Hospital

Prompt Care II (586) 228-3880 39090 Garfield, Suite 104 Clinton Township

#### Mount Clemens General Hospital Prompt Care III

(586) 677-3355 8180 26 Mile Road, Suite 101 Shelby Township

#### **POH Medical Center**

**POH - After Hours Center Oxford** (248) 628-3000 (248) 628-2781 385 N. Lapeer Road Oxford

#### Saint John Hospital Health System Romeo Plank Urgent Care

(586) 226-6000 46591 Romeo Plank Road Clinton Township

#### Saint John Hospital Health System

*St. John Family Medical Center - Masonic* (586) 296-6213 21099 Masonic St. Clair Shores

## William Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak

**Ped's After Hours** (248) 577-9600 3601 W. 13 Mile Royal Oak

A complete list of all metro-Detroit facilities can be found at the **Health Alliance Plan** Web site or the **Blue Cross Blue Shield** of **Michigan** Web site.

#### SUMMARY

Obtaining proper treatment is the most significant consideration in health care, but it's also important to be an educated consumer. Urgent care facilities fit the bill for many situations.

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