

BadgerCare Plus: Some Adults Need to Pay a Copay for Getting Care in the Emergency Room When It's Not an Emergency



You may need to pay an \$8 copay each time you choose to get care in the emergency room when it's not an emergency. This applies if you:

- Are age 19 to 64.
- Aren't pregnant.
- Don't have children younger than age 19 who are living with you.

Even if those apply to you, you may not need to pay this copay. It also depends on other things, such as being a tribal member.

A copay is a set amount of money you pay for a medical service.

What's considered an emergency?



A medical condition that puts your life in danger or could seriously damage your body if you don't get help right away is considered an emergency.

Some examples of this are:

- You're having seizures.
- You can't breathe or are severely short of breath.
- You're bleeding a lot, and it won't stop.

For an emergency, call 911, or go to the emergency room right away. You won't need to pay a copay in emergency situations.

What's not considered an emergency?

A medical condition that can usually be taken care of at a doctor's office or clinic is not considered an emergency.

Some examples of this are:

- You have a cough, fever, or sore throat.
- You sprained your ankle.
- You burned yourself, but not severely.



If you choose to get care in the emergency room when it's not an emergency, you may need to pay a copay and will probably wait a long time to get treatment. The doctor will decide whether or not your visit is an emergency.

What can you do instead of going to the emergency room?



Call your doctor's office.

You can usually get an appointment the same day depending on your medical condition.



Go to an urgent care clinic.

You'll be treated the same day, and it will take less time than going to the emergency room.



Call your doctor or nurse helpline.

You can ask what to do for treatment or where to go for care.

Only go to the emergency room for an emergency. If it's not an emergency, going to the emergency room is expensive and will usually take the most time to get treatment.