



## WRITING SAMPLE

Publication: GateHouse Media

Publish date: March 2019

---

# 6 Surprising Things You Can Take Care of at Urgent Care

By Gretchen Heber

Many modern urgent care centers are broadening their offerings. No longer just for a suspected sprained ankle or a high fever, urgent care centers offer a wide variety of services for a wide variety of customers. Check out this guide to learn more about how urgent care centers can help with a wide range of medical issues.

### Physicals and drug testing

Need a physical for your employer? Or perhaps your child needs a physical for a sports team? Many urgent care centers offer reasonably priced, flat rate-physical exams. Because urgent care offices are generally open beyond a regular physician's office hours, visits to urgent care facilities are often much more convenient for full-time workers and students. Keep in mind, however, that some centers only offer school physicals at a specific time of the year — at the beginning of a semester, for example, so it may be best to call ahead for particulars. If you're looking for pre-employment drug testing, many facilities offer that, too. Again, call or check the facility's website to confirm they can do what you need.

### X-rays

Many — though not all — urgent care centers have x-ray capabilities. If you suspect that you or a loved one has suffered a bone fracture, call your nearest urgent care center to find out if they can provide an x-ray. And while you're on the phone with them, ask how long the wait is.

### Travel Vaccines

Planning a trip abroad and need specific immunizations? Many urgent care centers offer a number of vaccines recommended for travelers. Depending on where you are visiting and what you will be doing at your destination — for example, ensconced in a hotel at a conference, or

backpacking through a forest — urgent care physicians will make specific recommendations. They may suggest vaccinations against yellow fever, hepatitis A or B, typhoid, rabies, Japanese encephalitis or other illnesses.

### **Workers Compensation Injuries**

Immediate care might be called for after a job-related injury. Many urgent care centers are familiar with and prepared for workers' comp injuries, which require special paperwork. Your employer might even be able to provide you with a list of urgent providers with whom they work. This will make the whole process more streamlined.

### **Get your prescriptions filled**

Some urgent care centers have onsite pharmacies. This means if the caregiver you see prescribes medicine, the prescription can be sent electronically to the in-house pharmacy. Instead of having to drive to another location, you can just walk a few steps and pick up your medicine.

When work or school obligations make visiting a traditional medical office tricky to schedule, it's good to know that urgent care clinics are open and offering a good number of important services.