

UC CHOICE FACILITIES

THESE ARE FREE-STANDING EMERGENCY ROOMS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Beware of free-standing ERs that look like Urgent Care facilities!

Colorado is one of only seven states that allow free-standing (not physically attached to a hospital) Emergency Rooms to combine with Urgent Care facilities.

In Colorado Springs, these Emergency Rooms are **UC Health** (formerly First Choice) facilities associated with Memorial Hospital. You may want to be familiar with their locations:

- ✓ **UCHealth Emergency Room**
 - 13510 Meadowgrass Drive
 - (Up by North Gate Blvd.)
- ✓ **UCHealth Emergency Room**
 - 3790 E. Woodmen Rd.
 - (via Rangewood Dr.)
- ✓ **UCHealth Emergency Room**
 - 2770 N. Powers Blvd.
 - (via S. Carefree Cir., near Constitution Ave.)
- ✓ **UCHealth Emergency Room**
 - 7890 Fountain Mesa Rd.



The problem with these facilities is that regardless of whether you need emergency care or urgent care, you get charged for emergency care--just as if you had gone to an emergency room physically attached to a hospital. In addition, most of these facilities are not equipped to handle trauma or life-threatening conditions, so they are going to send you by ambulance to a regular ER anyway, but you will get an ER charge for visiting them, an ambulance charge, and then another ER charge from the hospital ER.

Why does this matter? Well, it matters in terms of your deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums, and insurance premiums.

In Colorado, 40% of ER visits are non-emergent. That means of the approximately 1.8 million visits to the ER in a year, approximately 720,000 are non-emergent. If those patients had gone to an Urgent Care instead of an ER, they would have saved, on average, \$1100 each visit, which total \$800 million in savings--just in Colorado, and just for going to the Urgent Care, when appropriate, instead of the ER.