

Urgent Care: Approaches Advanced for Further Consideration

Definitions

- **Urgent Care Services.** *A prescribed set of pre-identified diagnostic and treatment services that:
(a) are for episodic, urgent care related to an acute illness or minor traumas that are not life-threatening or permanently disabling; services shall include advanced imaging and diagnostic services such as X-Ray; and
(b) additional services may include immunizations and occupational medicine therapies;
(c) require only a focused history and physical examination that does not require the dispensing of controlled substances;
(d) may make use of only CLIA-waived tests;
(e) are of a nature that may be provided within the projected duration of patient encounters, using available facilities and equipment.*

Urgent Care does not include emergency intervention for critical, major trauma, life-threatening or potentially disabling conditions. Urgent Care does not mean surgical services, dental services or birth center services. Urgent Care is not solely unscheduled walk-in primary care, and does not substitute primary care services for the ongoing maintenance of chronic illness or physical rehabilitation.

- **Urgent Care Provider.** *An Urgent Care Provider offers services as defined in (1) Definition of Urgent Care Services, as well as unscheduled walk-in services office hours during normal business hours plus extended hours.
(1) Extended hours may include early morning, late evening, weekend hours and holidays.
(2) An Urgent Care Provider shall have no expectation of an ongoing physician-patient relationship.*

Registration

- Register with the State of New York.

Accreditation

- Seek accreditation from a national accrediting body.

Naming Requirements and Guidelines

- Urgent Care Providers, as defined, shall use the term “Urgent Care” in their names.
 - (1) A provider that is not an Urgent Care Provider cannot use the term “Urgent Care” in their name, including primary care providers that offer unscheduled walk-in care and extended hours without additional urgent care services.
 - (2) An Urgent Care Provider cannot use any name that implies that it provides a full range of medical services. If an Urgent Care Provider is an affiliate or satellite of a licensed health care facility, the name of the Urgent Care Provider shall be sufficiently different from the parent facility such that members of the public can readily understand that the services offered are more limited in scope from those offered by the parent.
 - (3) Urgent Care Providers cannot use commercial terms such as “Immediate” or “Convenient” in their names.
 - (4) Urgent Care Providers cannot use the term “Emergency” or “Emergent” or related derivatives in their names or to describe their services.