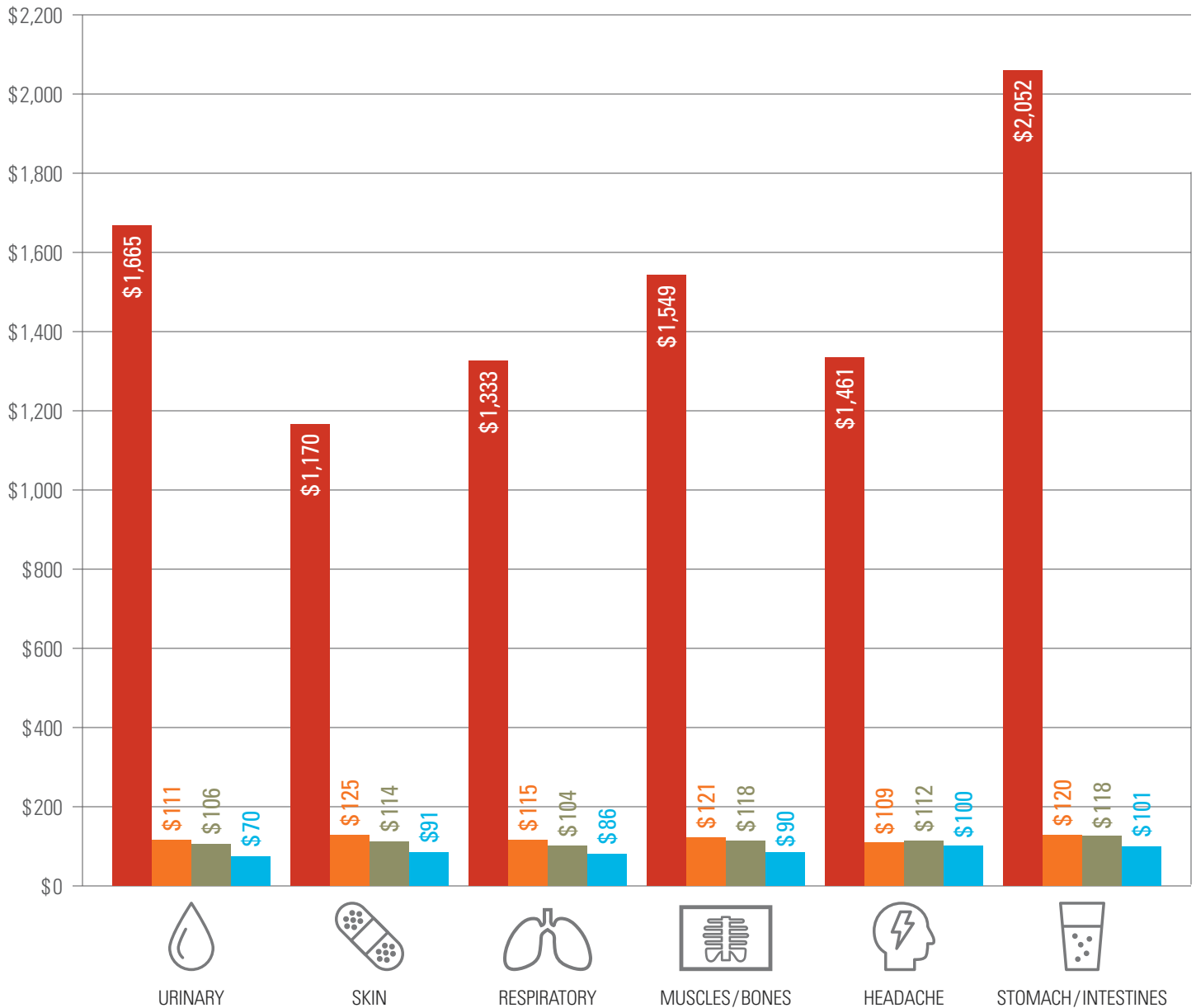


# Healthcare settings: care vs. cost

The emergency room can save your life if you're seriously sick or injured. But for less severe health issues, you may get faster and less expensive treatment elsewhere. Instead, call your primary care doctor or seek care at an urgent care center.



- Emergency room
- Urgent care
- Doctor's office
- Telemedicine



## DOCTOR

Costs vary, but expenses incurred at your doctor's office are usually lower than urgent care and are much lower than ER costs.

- ⊕ Costs can vary but are usually low
- ⊕ Visits can be in person
- ⊖ Doctor available by appointment only

### When to go

- Routine checkups
- Immunizations
- Preventive services
- Concerns about chronic issues
- Manage your overall health



## TELEMEDICINE

When you have a non-emergent health condition, telemedicine lets you interact with a board-certified doctor on your phone, tablet or computer

- ⊕ Usually available 24/7 with very little wait time
- ⊕ Don't need to leave your home or office
- ⊖ Often requires a copay and/or coinsurance

### When to go

- Cold/flu
- Fever
- Rash
- Sinus or ear infection
- Pink eye



## URGENT CARE

Costs vary, but expenses incurred at the urgent care clinic are lower than ER costs.

- ⊕ May be more readily available than doctor
- ⊕ Visits can be in person or through telemedicine
- ⊖ Long wait times are common

### When to go

- Sprains and strains
- Minor broken bones
- Minor cuts, scrapes or burns
- Flu and fever (below 104°)
- Earache or sore throat



## EMERGENCY ROOM

ER costs are higher than those incurred at doctor's office and urgent care clinic.

- ⊕ Provides care 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- ⊕ Prepared to provide for complex or critical needs
- ⊖ Long wait times are common
- ⊖ Costs are high

### When to go

- Severe/life-threatening symptoms
- Severe head injury or broken bones
- Chest pain or shortness of breath
- Excessive bleeding or extreme pain
- Sudden blurred or lost vision

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