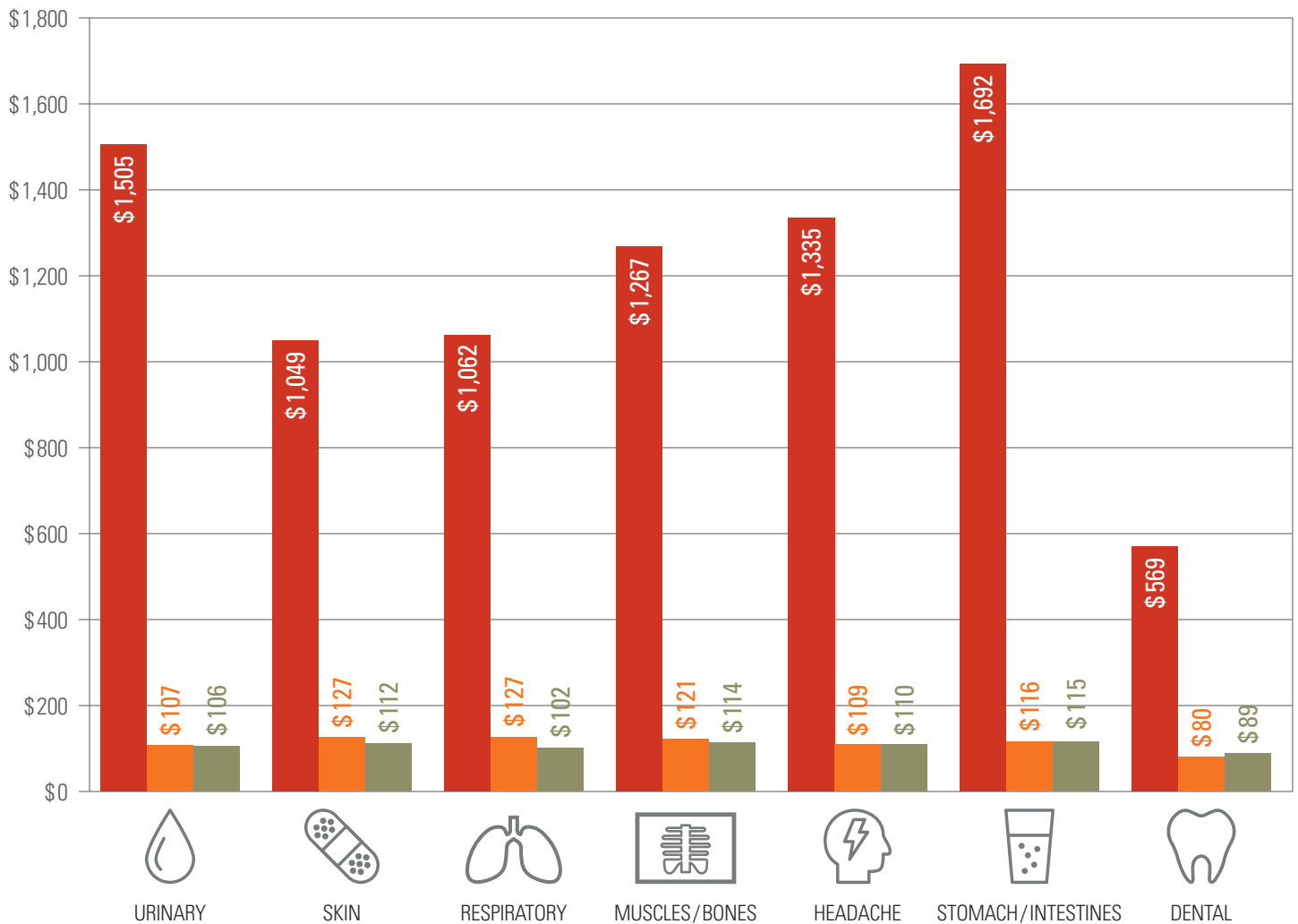


# Healthcare settings: care vs. cost

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



- Emergency room
- Urgent care
- Doctor's office

Cost analysis: January 2019 thru December 2019

## 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 or through telemedicine
- ⊖ Doctor available by appointment only

### When to go

- Cough or sore throat
- Fever
- Routine checkups
- Immunizations
- Preventive services
- Concerns about chronic issues
- Manage your overall health

## URGENT CARE



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

- ⊕ Costs can vary but are much 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
- Rash
- Minor cuts or scrapes
- Minor 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 care for complex or critical needs
- ⊖ Long wait times are common
- ⊖ Costs are high

### When to go

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

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