

Protect Access to Emergency Care in Nevada

Freestanding Emergency Departments Support Critical Access to Healthcare in Our Community

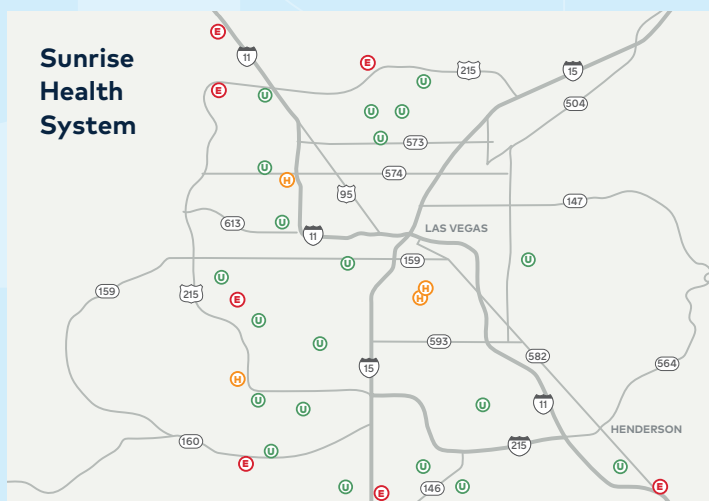


Freestanding Emergency Departments (FSEDs) provide 24/7 hospital emergency care, staffed by the same emergency physicians and registered nurses, and equipped with identical diagnostics and treatment options as hospital-based emergency rooms. In parts of Las Vegas, where hospitals are hard to access because they are far away or at capacity, **FSEDs fill critical gaps and offer faster access to lifesaving care – delivered with billing and care practices mirroring hospital-based emergency departments.**

For many patients in Las Vegas' growing and underserved areas, **FSEDs are the only nearby option for immediate emergency care.** Without them, patients may face delays, long travel times, or no access at all. As Las Vegas' population continues to grow, policies that restrict the development of emergency care **would limit patient choice, further erode access to care, and in many instances, be the difference between a loved one surviving a heart attack or stroke.**

FSEDs in Our Communities

HCA Healthcare operates several FSEDs across Southern Nevada to help meet the growing need for emergency services. Each FSED is located in close proximity to an HCA Healthcare urgent care clinic and is designed to meet real gaps in access — not to duplicate what's already there.



Hospitals:
4 locations



Freestanding ER:
7 locations



CareNow® Urgent Care:
20 locations

Emergency Care Myth vs. Fact

MYTH: Emergency departments are opening in areas that don't need them.

FACT: FSEDs improve access in underserved and fast-growing communities where hospitals are limited or over capacity. Restricting locations could halt future access expansions and widen equity gaps.

MYTH: FSEDs overbill for minor issues that don't require emergency care.

FACT: FSEDs follow EMTALA — treating every patient regardless of ability to pay and bill based on the care they deliver. They're equipped to handle the full range of emergencies, ensuring timely and appropriate care.

MYTH: FSEDs and urgent care clinics provide the same level of care.

FACT: Emergency and urgent care facilities serve distinct medical needs. An FSED is a full-service ER, open 24/7 for emergencies and serious medical conditions, staffed with board-certified ER physicians and equipped with CT imaging and cardiac labs. Urgent care clinics handle minor, non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, and are part of an expansive network, outnumbering FSEDs 3 to 1.

Where We Serve

HCA Healthcare operates across Southern Nevada to reduce hospital-based ER congestion and **support more than 40 access points to life-saving care** in growing communities.

What's at Stake if Emergency Care Access is Limited

Unduly restrictive policies could:

- **Hinder expansion into underserved communities**
- **Undermine the long-term viability of emergency care models that are working**