



*Company Nurse is a telephone triage injury hotline. When an injury occurs, the injured employee places a call to Company Nurse, a 24/7/365 hotline staffed by trained telephone triage nurses.*

*The Company Nurse approach positions a Registered Nurse at the very beginning of the injury reporting process, where future costs of the injury can be minimized, while providing the highest level of service to the injured employee.*

*For more information:  
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888.817.9282  
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## The Rising Cost of Medical Services In Workers' Compensation

### *Employers Can Make an Impact!*

Within the workers' compensation system in the United States, approximately 60% of all dollars spent are for medical services while 40% are for disability payments. According to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), medical costs per lost time claim have increased by 56.5% percent over the last ten years rising from \$18,400 per claim in 2003 to \$28,800 in 2013.

With medical costs being a significant cost driver to workers' compensation benefits, many employers across the country have taken steps to pro-actively manage the medical resources they utilize for their injured employees. In many cases, employers are able to decrease costs while improving service and care!

A recent article from *Consumer Reports* (August 2014) detailed available medical provider types and their average costs as follows:

1. **Retail Clinic:** Located in drugstores or big box stores such as CVS, Walgreens, Target and others. Open 7 days a week and have evening hours. Staffed with nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Best for: colds, bronchitis, strep throats, UTI's, minor sprains and strains. **AVERAGE COST: \$110.00.**
2. **Urgent Care Center:** Stand-alone walk-in centers owned by physicians or hospitals, Concentra, MedExpress, NextCare, U.S Healthworks and others. Open 7 days a week and have evening hours. At least one physician available, usually with a family or emergency medicine specialty. Might also staff with PA's, nurses, NP's, and radiologists. **AVERAGE COST: \$156.00.**
3. **Emergency Room:** Hospital department equipped to treat life threatening medical emergencies. Open 24/7. Emergency medicine physicians, nurses, PA's, medical and surgical specialty. A situation that threatens "life or limb," difficulty breathing, chest pain, facial drooping, limb weakness, seizures, severe bleeding, head trauma, coughing or spitting blood, severe allergic reaction, loss of consciousness. **AVERAGE COST: Starts at \$570.00**

At Company Nurse, we help our clients to send injured employees to the most appropriate medical provider given the nature and timing of their injury. Services and costs do vary between providers.



# Company Nurse Newsletter

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*“The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to make things better”*

*Robert F. Kennedy*

For example, the starting price for Emergency Rooms services is more than 3½ times the cost of Urgent Care centers. Many employers experience final charges of \$1,000 or more for work injuries resulting in an emergency room visit.

To help our employers maintain higher utilization of medically appropriate but lower cost Urgent Care Centers and Clinics, Company Nurse continually surveys our nationwide database of medical providers to ensure that we have the latest information including:

- Days and hours of operation
- Address, Phone and Fax Numbers
- Walk in's welcome or appointment required
- Services Provided
  - Drug and Alcohol Screening
  - Sutures
  - X-Rays
  - Casting
  - EKG
  - Ultrasounds
  - Interpreter Services

A medical referral is only “appropriate” when the services required by the patient match the services offered by the facility. Our experience has been that a more complete database of medical provider information has allowed our nurses to refer injured employees to highly qualified yet lower cost medical facilities. Injured employees are pleased with the care while employers are pleased with the cost savings.

### ***Truly a Win-Win Proposition!***

### ***Events Company Nurse Will Be Attending***

**AGRIP Fall Educational Forum:** Oct 5-8 – Westin Savannah Harbor - Savannah, GA

**PRIMA FL State Conference (Booth 36):** Oct 13-16 – Disney Resort - Lake Buena vista, FL

**National Workers' Compensation Show:** Nov 19-21 – Mandalay Bay- Las Vegas

### ***Company Nurse Injury Hotline***

Company Nurse is a workers' compensation cost reduction company that uses registered nurses to provide triage and care advice for injured workers. Employers benefit by receiving immediate report of injury; initiating their role in the workers' compensation process and a 15%+ reduction in claims. Employees benefit by having immediate access to medical professionals.

[Click Here](#) for more information about Company Nurse

