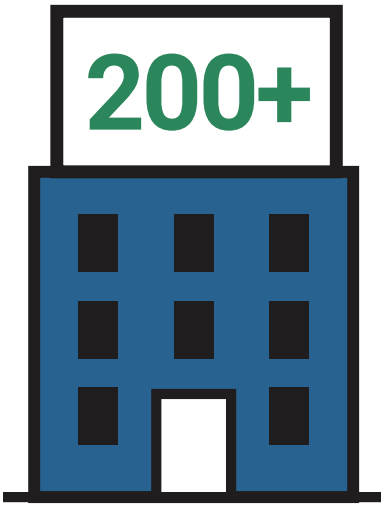


The problems with freestanding ERs | view in [Web Browser](#)



200+

That’s how many freestanding ERs there are in Texas.

This may seem like a good thing because it gives you options for care. But what you don’t know about freestanding ERs could hurt you—and your wallet.



\$3,000

the average cost of a non-emergency freestanding ER visit in Texas

\$158

cost of a comparable non-emergency visit at an urgent care center



90%

the number of freestanding ER patients who could have gotten treatment for much less elsewhere

2.3%

the number of freestanding ER visits that actually require emergency care

30%

the number of freestanding ERs that may not be upfront about their pricing



22X

how much more you may pay at a freestanding ER for the same services at your doctor’s office

19X

how much more you may pay at a freestanding ER for the same services at an urgent care center

Top 3 reasons to beware of freestanding ERs:

- 1 High costs!

Many freestanding ERs are out of network and have misleading prices. You may end up with a surprisingly high bill for unnecessary care.
- 2 Lack of quality care!

Since freestanding ERs are not attached to hospitals, they may not be able to provide the care you need.
- 3 Delayed care!

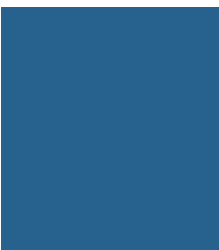
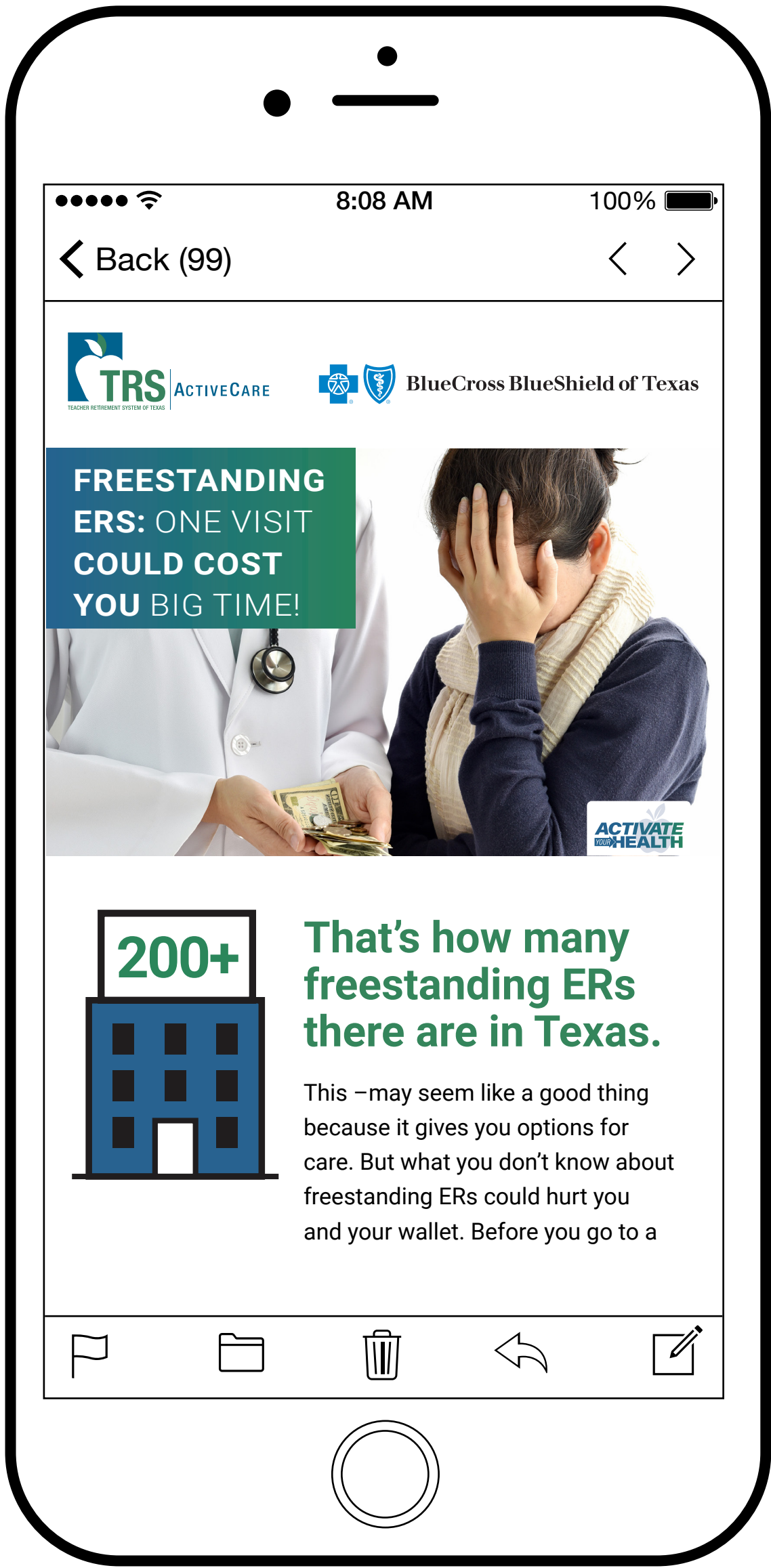
If you need actual emergency care or hospital admission, transferring to a hospital will cost you precious time and money.

How to spot a freestanding ER

The freestanding ER down the street may look like an urgent care center, but they’re not the same.

- 1 Freestanding ERs look like urgent care centers but have the word “EMERGENCY” in their name.
- 2 Freestanding ERs are usually open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Urgent care centers typically close at night.
- 3 Freestanding ERs aren’t connected to a hospital.

Remember, you can always call a Personal Health Guide, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at **1-866-355-5999** for help. You also have access to the 24/7 Nurseline at **1-833-968-1770** to answer health-related questions and help you decide whether to go to the ER or find another option for care.



www.bcbstx.com/trsactivecare

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, health status or disability. See our full [non-discrimination notice and contacts](#).

To get help and information in your language at no cost, call the customer service number on the back of your member card, or see our [Language Assistance](#) page for more information.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-710-6984 (TTY: 711).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-710-6984 (TTY: 711).

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

1001 E. Lookout Drive, Richardson, TX 75082
© Copyright 2021 Health Care Service Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
[Legal and Privacy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Update your preferences](#)