

The problem 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.

<p>\$3,000 the average cost of a non-emergency freestanding ER visit in Texas</p>	<p>\$158 cost of a comparable non-emergency visit at an urgent care center</p>
<p>90% the number of freestanding ER patients who could have gotten treatment for much less elsewhere</p>	<p>2.3% the number of freestanding ER visits that actually require emergency care</p>
<p>30% the number of freestanding ERs that may not be upfront about their pricing</p>	
<p>22X how much more you may pay at a freestanding ER for the same services at your doctor's office</p>	<p>19X how much more you may pay at a freestanding ER for the same services at an urgent care center</p>

Top 3 reasons to beware of freestanding ERs:

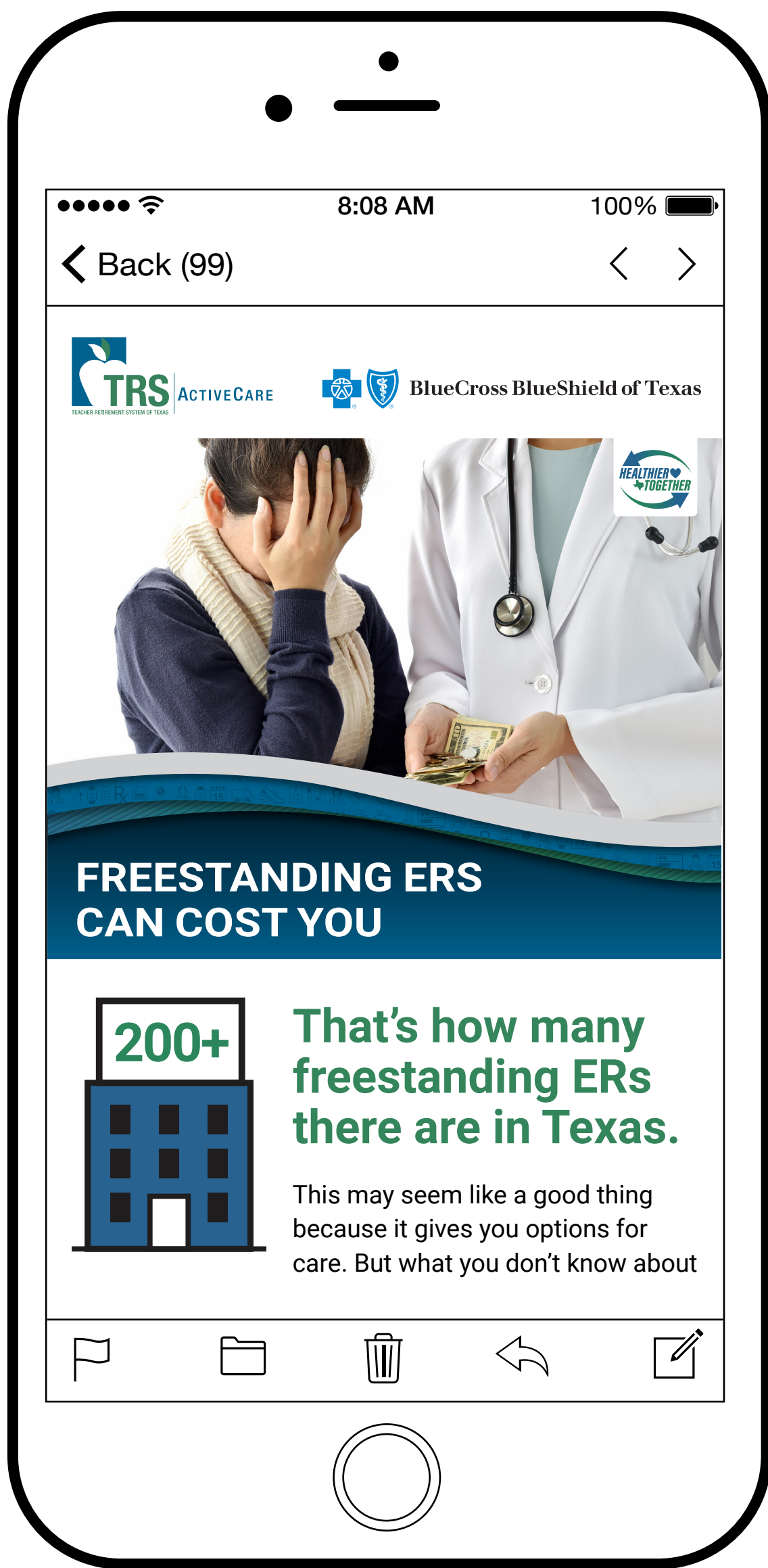
- 1 High costs!**
Many freestanding ERs are out of network and have misleading prices. You may end up with a surprisingly high bill for unnecessary care.
- 2 Lack of quality care!**
Since freestanding ERs are not attached to hospitals, they may not be able to provide the care you need.
- 3 Delayed care!**
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.



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