

UF Health Emergency Center – Kanapaha

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a freestanding emergency room?

A freestanding emergency room is a full-service, walk-in and 911-receiving emergency care medical facility that is community-based and not located in a hospital or on a hospital campus; and it is fully equipped and staffed to provide comprehensive emergency care for patients with acute illnesses or injuries.

These are usually located in an easily accessible part of the community to serve as an alternative to the emergency room located on a hospital campus. They are staffed by physicians and nursing staff who have specialized training or competency in emergency medicine and they offer the same state-of-the-art technology, resources and expertise as an emergency room at a hospital.

With onsite labs and imaging services, freestanding emergency rooms usually offer shorter wait times and quicker turnaround times for care compared to traditional, on-site hospital emergency rooms. Patients can access care closer to home, and quickly receive immediate assessment, diagnosis, stabilization and treatment for emergency medical needs. Patients who require more complex care from a multidisciplinary team can be stabilized at the local freestanding emergency room then transported to the emergency room at a hospital.

Is the freestanding emergency room model a new trend in health care?

Freestanding emergency rooms are becoming an increasingly common model of emergency care throughout the United States. They make emergency care more easily accessible to community residents and are appealing because of the capacity to provide faster and more efficient care than may be available in a busy hospital emergency room setting.

They are also a solution to help relieve emergency room overcrowding by providing choice, improving access and helping to better distribute emergency patient volumes throughout the community.

In 2013, UF Health opened its first freestanding emergency room, the UF Health Shands Emergency Center at Springhill, in northwest Gainesville. In FY15, the Springhill emergency center received 27,062 patient visits. Like with the Springhill campus, patients at the UF Health Emergency Center at Kanapaha will have quick access to extensive resources throughout UF Health Shands and the UF Health academic health center.

What conditions should be directed to the on-campus (southwest Archer Road) emergency room?

Patients who have a potentially serious or life-threatening heart condition, heart attack, stroke or traumatic injury will be transported for further evaluation and treatment at the UF Health Shands E.R., located at the UF Health Shands Critical Care center on the hospital's main campus, or at the UF Health Shands Pediatric E.R.

How is a freestanding emergency room different from an urgent care center?

Urgent care centers are not "911-receiving" – meaning they do not receive patients as a result of 911 emergency calls and EMS transportation – and they do not offer the same complexity of services as freestanding emergency rooms, such as labs and imaging services.

Are freestanding emergency rooms as safe as traditional emergency rooms?

Freestanding emergency rooms must meet the same criteria as emergency rooms located in a hospital or on a hospital campus to be licensed by the state of Florida. Patients can rest assured that they will receive the same level of quality care and attention as they would in any other emergency room setting.

The UF Health Emergency Center at Kanapaha team will have quick access to our diverse resources throughout UF Health Shands and the UF Health academic health center. These resources include the UF Health Shands Critical Care Center and Level I Trauma Center, the UF Health Shands Chest Pain E.R. and the UF Health Shands Pediatric E.R.