

When and How to Find a Clinic

- Look for a clinic **before you get sick! Clinics are not for emergencies.** It can take weeks or months to get into a clinic.

- Some clinics have **wait lists for new patients.** Put your name on the wait list. Someone will call you when there is space at the clinic. Different clinics have different registration rules. **Ask what papers and information you need for registration.** Make a registration appointment.
- Take the necessary information with you to your registration appointment at the clinic

6.2 Tips for Using a Health Clinic

HOW TO USE A



Costs at Clinics



Clinics are for people with no health insurance and little money. Some clinics are free; some cost a little money. You need to ask how much a clinic costs.



Some clinics have pharmacies with *low-cost* or *free* medicine. Some clinics do not have pharmacies. Some clinics can help you get low-cost medicine from other places.

Clinic Services

Clinics have different services. Ask which ones they offer. Some services may only be offered on certain days and times.



- Medical care
- Dental care
- Pediatric (children's health care)
- Women's health care
- Vision (eyes) and hearing (ears) care
- Case managers (social workers) to help you get the services that you need
- Low-cost pharmacies
- Mental health care
- Interpreters

What to Do Checklist

- Look for a clinic. Ask for registration information.
- Register yourself and your family at the clinic. (You may have to wait.)
- Make an appointment. Ask for an interpreter when you make your appointment.
- Call and cancel your appointment if you can't

IMPORTANT!

- Some people do not have insurance but have a little too much money for a clinic. If you do not get a space in a clinic, when you are sick **try to see a private doctor.**
- Explain to the doctor's office that you don't have health insurance.
- Ask if the doctor can give you a **"self-pay discount."** Some doctors have lower costs for people without insurance.