

Freestanding Emergency Room (ER) FAQs

How is a freestanding ER or freestanding emergency medical center defined by DHA?

Humana Military has clarified with DHA that a TRICARE ER is defined as a hospital-based entity. Freestanding ERs that are not affiliated with a hospital – or do not meet the requirements of Medicare’s hospitals without walls initiative – are not recognized as part of the TRICARE policy. An emergency department is defined as “an organized hospital-based facility for the provision of unscheduled episodic services to patients who present for immediate medical attention. The facility must be available 24 hours a day” (*TRICARE Policy, Chapter 2, Section 4.1, 3.0*).

Where can I find more information on the temporary authorization of hospitals without walls?

[TRICARE Policy Manual – Chapter 1, Section 15.1](#)

When should I submit a hospital application to identify my freestanding ER as a satellite location?

For any hospital-based emergency rooms billing with an address different than the main hospital, a hospital application, identifying the emergency room as a satellite, should be submitted to Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS). Additionally, submit a hospital application if the facility is enrolled with Medicare as part of the hospitals without walls initiative.

Where can I find the hospital application?

[Hospital provider certification application](#)

This application will authorize the creation of an institutional provider record for the location, allowing claims to be submitted on a *UB-04 claim form*.