

## Marketing for Urgent Care Start-ups

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# **Objectives**

- Understand the drivers of urgent care volume and describe what differentiates urgent care marketing from other consumer businesses.
- Explain the impact of seasonality on urgent care volume and the types of advertising messages that drive consumer behavior.
- 3. Differentiate common urgent care marketing tactics including paid advertising, grassroots, business-to-business, digital media, and public relations.
- 4. Compare advertising opportunities using concepts of relevance, reach, and frequency of exposure.
- 5. Develop a basic marketing strategy and collateral to support marketing activities.

#### **Urgent Care Marketing**

- •Urgent care profitability depends on volume.
- •Tomorrow's visits are driven by today's foot traffic.
- •Word of mouth takes too long to reach critical mass.
- •Advertising is critical to drive the initial volume necessary for start-up success.
- •Advertising should be viewed as an investment (with a return) rather than an expense (to be controlled).

#### Urgent Care Marketing Challenges

•Urgent care is not a planned purchase and is not a daily consumable.

Not a "direct response" — consumers may intend to use the center but haven't yet had a medical need.
Return on marketing investment is difficult to quantify.

•Urgent care marketing must "educate" consumers, correct misperceptions:

•How much it costs: *it's expensive* 

- •What it treats: *its for emergencies only*
- •Services provided: *no doctor in the center*
- •Patient experience: "urgent" means zero wait

#### **Building Top of Mind Awareness**

•Clinical capabilities and credentials that a physician feels differentiate a center are likely unimportant to consumers.

•Instead, tap into the *primitive, fight-orflight brain* where decisions are made:

- •Answer "what this means to me"
- •Use visual stimuli to grab attention
- •Focus on emotion over reason



#### "Hey Mom, I need a physical by Monday!"

Let The Little Clinic help camp and school sports physicals *for only \$29!* 

- No Appointments little or no waiting time
- Located inside your neighborhood supermarket
- Open 7 days including nights and weekends
- Professional, caring Nurse Practitioners



### Marketing Messaging

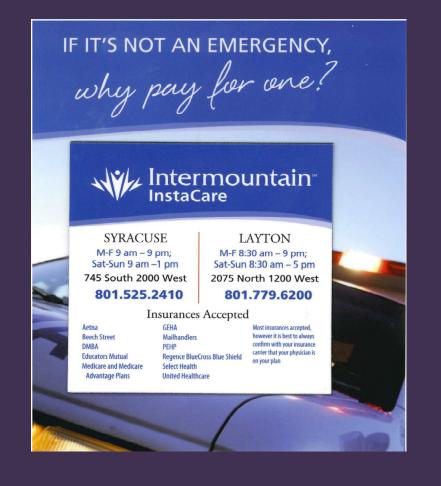
•Vague terms like "convenient, high-quality, affordable medical care" can describe any number of health care options.

Rely on simple contrasts—before/ after; now/later; with/without—that address consumer "pain points":
Co-pay of \$100 for the E.R. vs. \$35 for Urgent Care.
45 day wait for a primary care appointment vs. being seen immediately.
Driving downtown to a general hospital vs. supporting a practice in your neighborhood.

•Suffering an illness vs. returning to work and life.

### Messaging: Solve a Problem





#### **Messaging: Strike an Emotional Chord**

Here when you need us at five Triangle locations offering extended hours every day of the year, including holidays.

No appointment necessary

## Duke Urgent Care

Rapid walk-in care for all of life's bumps, bruises, and bugs 1-888-ASK-DUKE dukeurgentcare.org

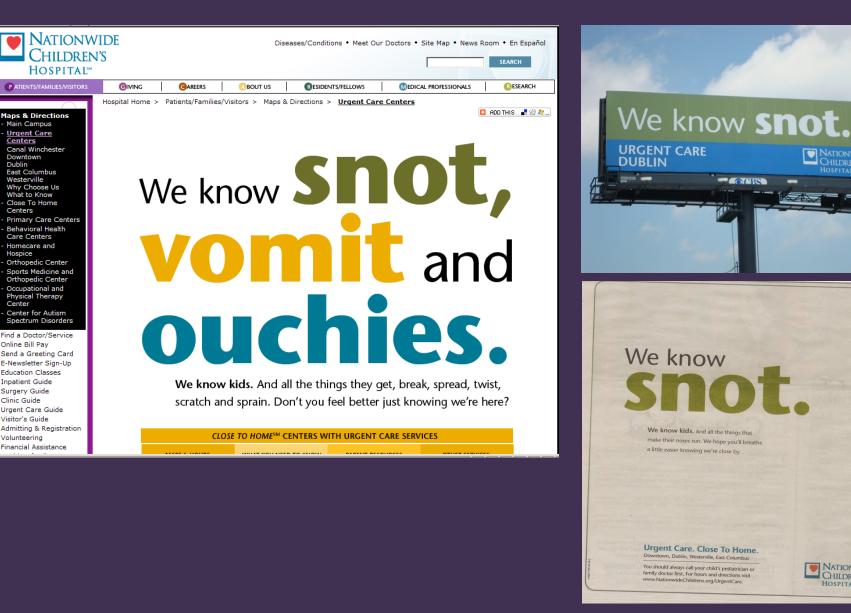
#### **Messaging: Capture Attention**

NATIONWIDE

CHILDREN'S

NATIONWIDE

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL"



Maps & Directions Main Campus Urgent Care Centers

Canal Winchester

Why Choose Us What to Know Close To Home Centers

Behavioral Health Care Centers Homecare and Hospice Orthopedic Center Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center Occupational and Physical Therapy Center

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders Find a Doctor/Service Online Bill Pay

Send a Greeting Card E-Newsletter Sign-Up Education Classes Inpatient Guide

Surgery Guide Clinic Guide

Volunteering

Urgent Care Guide Visitor's Guide

Financial Assistance

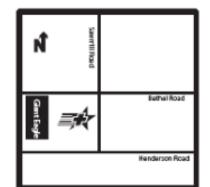
Downtown

Dublin East Columbus Westerville

## **Messaging: Capture Attention**

#### **Discreet, Private Health Care**

Just 10 minutes from Campus



From Campus: Take 315 North to Bethel Rd. West on Bethel (3 miles) to Sawmill.

#### Private Health Care:

Colds & Flu	Cold Sores
Sinus Infection	Gonorrhea & Chlamydia
Bladder Infection	Athletes Foot
Yeast Infection	Other Personal Health Conditions

Open Seven Days a Week No Appointment Necessary OSU Health Plans Accepted Visits Starting at \$69\* for Uninsured

> Convenient Access: 4661 Sawmill Road Sawmill & Bethel (614) 583-1133

\*Subject to limitations. See program brochure for details.

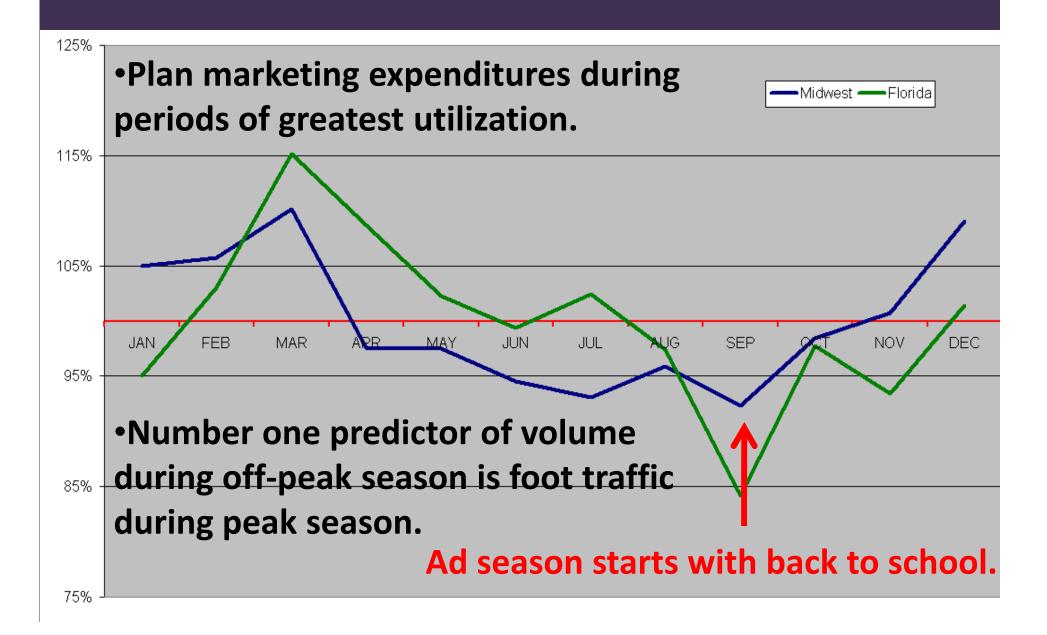
www.AmericasUrgentCare.com

## Messaging: Differentiate with Humor





#### When to Market: Urgent Care Seasonality



## **Readiness Factor: Physical Plant**









#### **Readiness Factor: Patient Experience**



**Detractors** *undermine current business*  **Passives** easily wooed by the competition **Promoters** extend sales and marketing

Neutralize

Convert

Evangelize

## **Urgent Care Visit Drivers**

Organic Growth •Insurance referrals •Drive-by visibility •Word-of-mouth

**Physician Referrals** 

**Public Relations** 

Paid Advertising
Billboards/outdoors
Yellow Pages
Internet
Print media
Direct mail
Radio/Television

<u>Grassroots Tactics</u> •Community Events •Sponsorships

#### **Critical Success Factor: Signage Visibility**

Same ad impact as a billboard
Should include "urgent care" or connote services
Boosts return of all other marketing investments





## Signage Should be Simple, Clear and Relevant



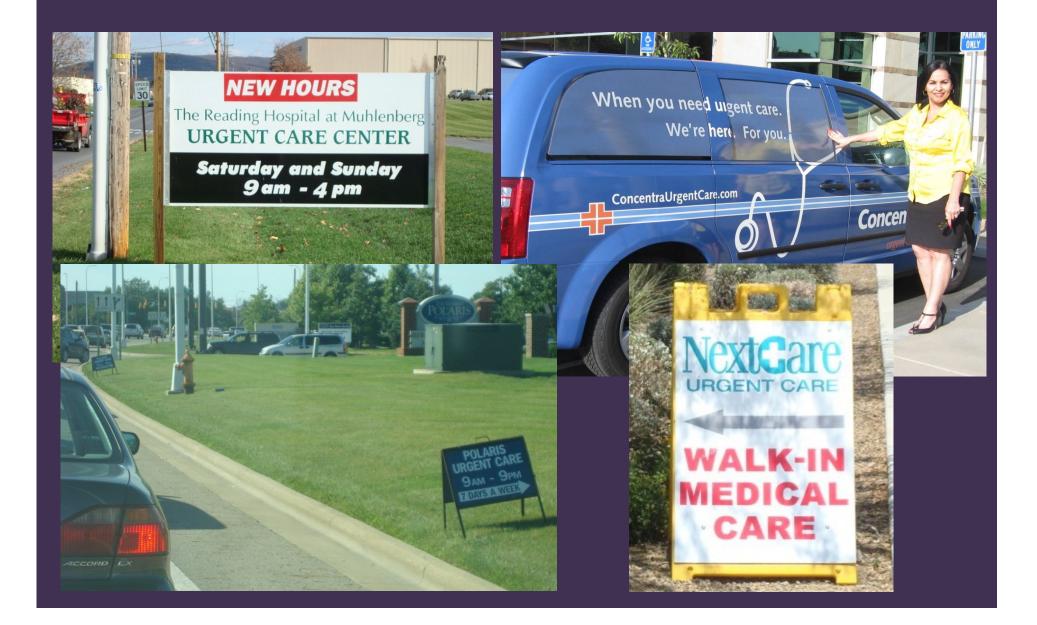
# Signage Should be Visible Both Day and Night



#### **Optimize Space on Monuments and Poles**



### **Promotional Signs Boost Center Visibility**



#### **Promotions: Pre- and Grand Opening**



#### **Promotions: Seasonal Campaigns**



## **Municipal Directional Signage**



## Starting Collateral: Brochure/Flyer



#### Close to home. Care you can trust.







**OPEN LATE 7 DAYS A WEEK** 

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HWY 80 & FM 548 IN FORNE





20

HAFER PLAZA AT MUSTANG CROS





NextCare Urgent Care Values: Friendliness • Integrity Sincerity • Humility Teamwork • Optimism **Empathy • Service Excellence** 



NextCare Urgent Care Overview:

· NextCare treats any non-life-threatening illness or injury that

· Save time and money by using NextCare as an alternative to the emergency room The perfect, convenient solution for families and individuals

of all ages, including those who can't get in immediately to see their primary doctor, are visiting from out of town or are new to the area and currently don't have a doctor

 Comprehensive occupational health services offered to meet the medical needs of your business



ains & Stra CRays, Labs and Drug And More

evere bleeding, head injury, or other major tra





**1-877-7-WHAT NEXT** (1 - 877 - 794 - 2863)www.nextcare.com/whatnext

Conveniently Register Online

our registration paperwork in the omfort of your own home!

Prescriptions Offered On-Site Save yourself a trip to the pharmacy and purchase your prescriptions at our clinic during the same visit! NextCa

ons all at an affordable prio

MEDICAL DISCOUNT PROGRAM
No Insurance or Limited Coverage?

X+raCare

Recieve Additional Healthcare Discounts

1-877-7-WHAT NEXT

(1 - 877 - 794 - 2863)

www.nextcare.com/whatnext

about our X+raCare Medical Benefits Net ard for additional health-related henefits and discounts ling vision, dental, pharmacy, hospital and NextCare iding vision, dental, pnarmacy, hospital and Nexic are nt Care savings), regardless of whether you do or do ni health insurance. Start saving today!

Value Care

Shorten your time at the clinic by register online at www.nextcare.com/whatnext for your next urgent care visit. Complete

**URGENT CARE** 

**General Medical Care** Physicals, X-Rays, Labs, Vaccines **Occupational Medicine** 

**1-877-7-WHAT NEXT** (1-877-794-2863)www.nextcare.com/whatnext

Urgent Care

- Minor Emergencies
- Family Medicine
- Occupational Medicine Services
- Wellness Programs
- High-tech X-Ray Department
- Onsite Radiology & Laboratory Services
- Computerized self check-in
- Cyber Cafe
- Wireless Internet Access







Qualified providers available extended hou

· Compassionate, quality care provided along with many additional services



When To Use An Emergency Room

All major insurance accented Clinic Hours Walk-in natients welcome Monday - Friday 8am-8pm Convenient online check-in Saturday - Sunday 8am-4pm Medical discount programs offered Holidays - call for hours

Schedule An Appointment (Optional) Utilize Our Occupational Health Services For added convenience, request an appointment by c 1-877-7-WHAT NEXT (1-877-794-2863). Walk-ins are

NexiGal

CHECK-

comprehensive approach to occupational health will assis ur comprehensive approach to accupational health will assis ur company in reducing the overall costs associated with yo ork-related injuries. NextCare adhress to the highest standar care and our services are delivered by a team of top-quality

Key Benefits Of The Occupational Program Include: Return to Mark Di Substance Abuse Tes Breath Alcohol Te Brath Alcohol Testing
 Physical Exams Including DO
Regulated Programs
 Laboratory & Screening Servic
 Immunizations/Vaccinations
 On-Site Screening & Testing S

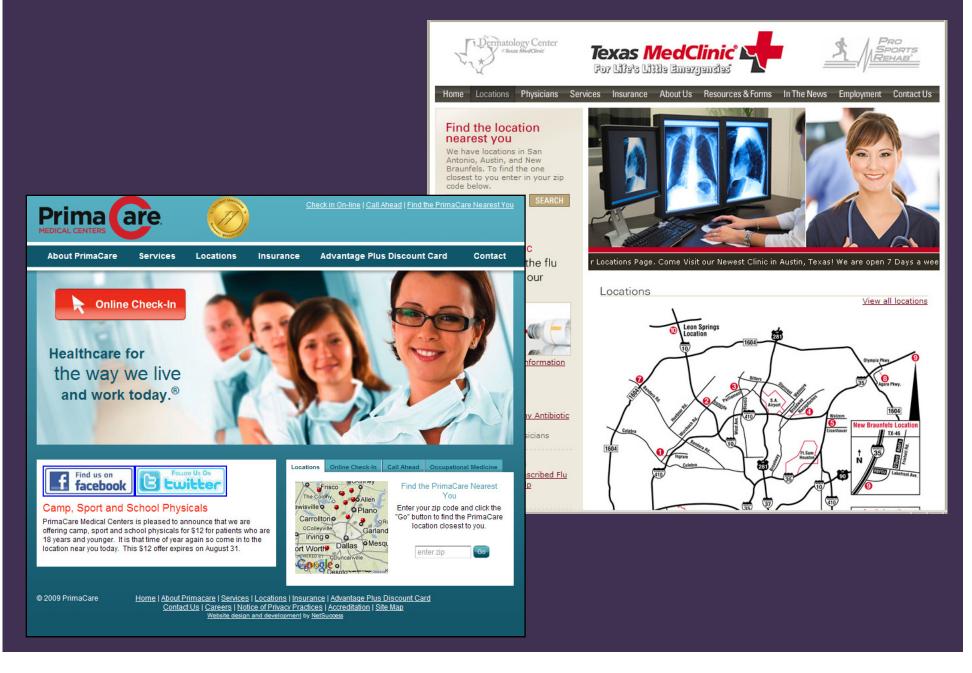
Don't Wait For A Physical Exam School & Sports Physicals **Employment Physicals** Pre-Placement Physicals Well-Woman Care DOT/DMV Physicals Insurance Certification



## Starting Collateral: Magnets

EGENT CARE • 8am to 8pm • 7 Days Media Control of the second sec	Fast.®	Piedmont HealthCare URGENT CARE       Difference         Express Medical Care       Open extended hours 7 days a week         No Appointment Necessary         www.phcurgentcare.com		
605 Parfet Street, Suite 103 • Lakewood, CO 80 p: 303-462-DOCS (3627) f: 303-462-22 www.medexpress.com	Concord Across fr	rom the Mall I-7	ris Blvd. Lake Norma 7 Exit 18 I-77 Exit 36 ) 688-9650 (704) 660-911	
SAVE THIS MAGNET Rocky Mountain Urgent Care • No Appt. Necessary • X-Ray On-site • Stitches • Broken Bones • Minor Illness Open days, evenings, weekends & holidays <b>1-877-889-15222</b> AURORA COMMERCE CITY ENGLEWOOD WESTMINSTER 13650 E. Mississippi Ave. 18240 E. 104th Ave. 3601 S. Clarkson St. 5044 W. 92nd Ave. WWW.RockyMountainUrgentCare.com	Arlington 2401 Monument Rd. 904-642-0337 Northside 2032 Dunn Ave. 904-757-2008	Solantic walk-in urgent can Great care. Fo Beaches 410 Atlantic Blvd. 904-241-0117 Orange Park 2140 Kingsley Ave. 904-213-0600	<b>Ist and fair.</b> Mandarin 12303 San Jose Blvd. 904-288-0277 Southside 8705-2 Perimeter Pk. 904-248-3910	
IMPORTANT NUMBERSALL EMERGENCIES911DENVER INTL. AIRPORT303-342-2000POISON CONTROL303-739-1123XCEL ENERGY800-895-1999CDOT ROAD INFO.303-639-1111	5915 Nor	78-0121 46401 9 TIC www	Yulee Wal-Mart supercenter 6 State Road 200 04-261-3913 w.solantic.com ights & weekends!	

## Search Engine Optimized Website



## Advertising Reach and Frequency

•Mass media reaches many consumers who will never use the center due to location, insurance, and other factors.

Target segments most likely to use urgent care:
Married families with children
Above-average household incomes
Employer-provided health insurance
Owner-occupied housing

•The "right" people must hear the message a sufficient number of times to achieve "top of mind."

• Multi-tactic campaigns are most effective.

## **Out-of-Home Advertising**

•\$750-\$5,000/month depending on location, traffic, and visibility.

> Directional message enroute to center.



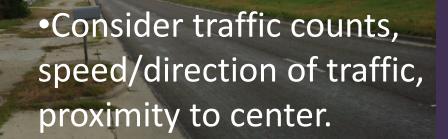


Brand-building message raising awareness.

## Limit Billboard Content, Simplify Design



#### **Drive All Proposed Billboards Before Purchase**



Doctors Express

de Cracker

7 DAYS A WEEK

## Effective Billboards Extend Center Signage



### Out-of-Home Also Encompasses Public Transit, Airport, Mall and Sports Venues



Advertising effectiveness depends on frequency of exposure.

## **Yellow Pages**

\$200 to \$5,000 per month depending on:
Size of market, distribution of book
Color, graphics, size of ad
Section placement: Urgent Care, Physicians, Drug Testing
When multiple publishers, choose the primary book.

12-month commitment, long lead time, no updates:
Difficult to plan for grand opening.
Providers, hours, services may change.

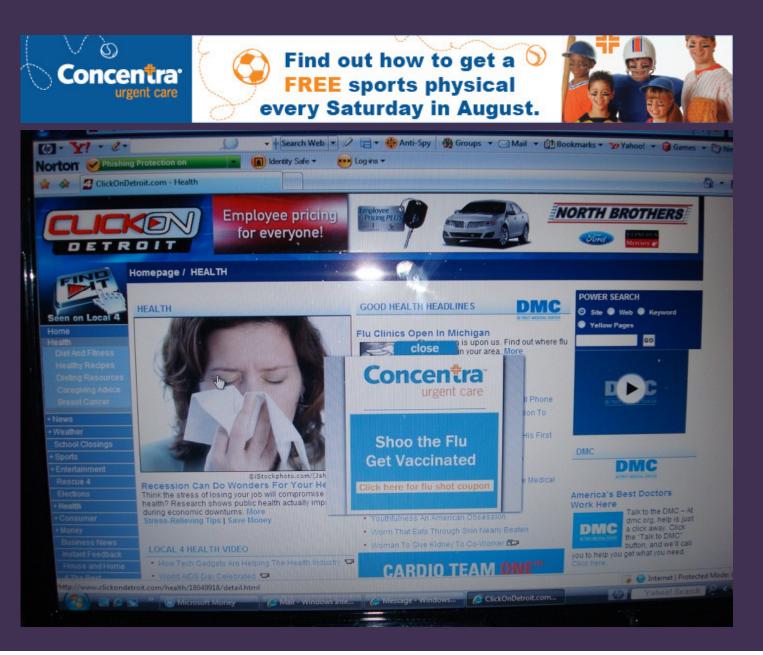
Diminishing in importance:
Mobile users, Internet, handheld devices.
Appeals to seniors, travelers.
Defense against competition.

## Internet Listings: Google

🖉 urgent care detroit - Google Search - Windows Internet Explorer		_	BX
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Irgent Care at St. John Hospital & Medical Center: Detroit If you're looking for a St. John outpatient service, but don't know where it's at, try the outpatient services directory. www.stjohn.org/hospitalscenters/HospitalOutpatientFacility.aspx?OutpatientFacilityID=301 - 16k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>		By Local.com Detroit, MI	
Livonia Urgent Care Welcome to Livonia Urgent Care providing patients with wide range of urgent care services. We diagnose and treat all accidents and illnesses of pediatric Show map of 37595 7 Mile Rd. Livonia, MI 48152 www.livoniaurgentcare.com/ - 2k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>			
Riverview Urgent Care - Detroit, MI - Detroit News Riverview Urgent Care. 7733 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI, 48266. Tags: There are no tags. Venue Type: Hospital / Medical Center. Neighborhood: Islandview			

events.detnews.com/detroit-mi/venues/show/970050-riverview-urgent-care - 23k -

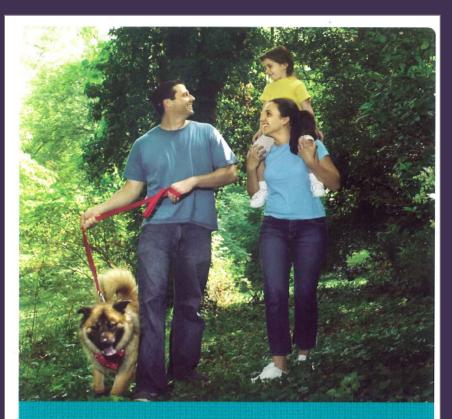
#### Internet Banner, Pop-up and Sidebar Ads



#### Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.



#### **Direct Mail: Postcard**



Don't let minor injuries ruin a seriously good time.



minormed.baptistonline.org 800-4-BAPTIST



#### Scioto URGENT CARE

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"Helping Families Stay Healthy"

\* OPEN EVERYDAY & HOLIDAYS \* IN NETWORK most Insurance \* SHORT WAIT TIMES

www.sciotourgentcare.com

SAVE OUR MAGNET !!!!!

PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID Columbus OH Permit #2609

# Print: Community News or "Shopper"



#### **Print: Magazine or Niche Publication**



# **Radio/Television**

•Advertising to people who cannot or will not use the center is a waste of money.

•Generally viable for multi-site operations spanning a metro area or in small markets where a single center is accessible to the majority of the audience.

•Families are spending less time watching TV—except for news, "Soccer Moms" often record shows and watch commercial-free.

•Not a single tactic—needs to be integrated with other media (billboards, print) to attain sufficient frequency of exposure.

# **Grassroots Marketing Activities**

- Chambers of Commerce
- Community Organizations
- Community Events
- •Apartment Complexes
- •Hotels/Motels
- Parks/Recreation Facilities
- •Health Clubs
- Churches/Religious Congregations
- Local Schools (PTA, Athletic Boosters)
- College Campuses
- Ethnic Groups/Advocacy Organizations



#### Parks and Recreation Sponsorship



# **Event Participation: Flash Mob**



# **Event Participation: Games and Giveaways**





#### ENHANCING COMMUNITIES AND CAREERS NATIONWIDE

National Management in over

- Investment of \$2.75 billion

- Annual Development pipe
- 2,900 team members
- Committed to professional

greystar.com

Montecito Creek

Free \$300 Gas Cards





## **Sports Physical Promotions**

•Relationships with athletic directors backed by advertising and public relations.

•Keep State High School Athletic Association or school-specific forms in center.

• "Free" is often viewed as "no value" — attracts people looking for something free.

Promotional pricing maintains value of the service but offers an inducement to trial:
>30% of patients return for urgent care
Average utilization is 1.7x/year





# Start-up Marketing Budget

•Chamber of Commerce Membership	\$	350
•Coming Soon and Grand Opening Banners	\$	350
•Magnets (8,000 @ .15)	\$	1,200
•Brochures (3,000 @ .30)	\$	900
•Letterhead and Envelopes (2,000 @ .25)	\$	500
•Postage	\$	1,000
<ul> <li>Website Design and Hosting</li> </ul>	\$	2,500
<ul> <li>Internet and Search Engine Advertising</li> </ul>	\$	4,500
•Post Card Mailings (2x 9,000 homes)	\$	7,000
•Post Card Mailer with Magnet (9,000)	\$	5,300
•Mailing Lists	\$	900
•Door Hangers (2,000 homes)	\$	1,500
•Community Newspaper Ads (26 @ \$500)	\$	13,000
•Grand Opening Event	\$	3,500
•Community Events	<u>\$</u>	7,500
TOTAL	\$	50,000

#### The Sky is the Limit to What You Can Spend



#### **Marketing-Related Articles**

Getting the Word Out: Introduction to Urgent Care Advertising, JUCM, March, 2009.

Creating a Web Presence to Raise Awareness of Urgent Care, JUCM, July/August, 2009.

Using Social Media to Drive Visits to Your Website and Urgent Care Center, JUCM, October, 2009.

Building Referral Relationships: Pharmacies and Retail Host Clinics, JUCM, January, 2010.

Building Urgent Care Referral Relationships: EDs, PCPs, and Specialists, JUCM, February, 2010.



#### Practice Management

March 2009

Back to contents

#### Getting the Word Out: An Introduction to Urgent Care Advertising

Home Buyer's Guide Subscription Urgent Care Facilities Urgent Care Careers/Marketplace Advertising Info About U

**Urgent message**: Unlike many other practice models, urgent care must appeal directly to the consumer to stay 'top of mind' and be the first option the patient considers when a need arises.

Alan A. Ayers, MBA, MAcc

Introduction to Urgent Care Advertising Urgent care is a healthcare delivery channel built around the needs of consumers—"retail," from a marketing perspective —with convenient locations, evening and weekend hours, walk-in service, the capability to treat a range of illness or injury, and one simple bill.

From an accounting perspective, most of an urgent care center's costs are fixed; rent, utilities, and staff and provider salaries must be paid regardless of the number of patients seen on any given day. As a result, the key driver of urgent care profitability is visit counts. The more patients an urgent care center sees, generally, the more profitable that center will become.



### **Contact Information**

Alan A. Ayers, MBA, MAcc Dallas, Texas aayers@ucaoa.org

# Appendix

# **Provider and Facility Referrals**

• Develop peer-to-peer relationships personal visit, breakfast meeting

Meet a need of the referral practice:
Weekend, after-hours, overflow
Services—lab, x-ray, workers comp
Refer new patients for primary care

• Simplify process for referring providers

Understand and overcome objections:
Duplicative services
Forward chart for existing patients
In-network insurance



# **Public Relations**

Cost-effective substitute for some (but not all) advertising
Don't know whether news will appear, when or in what form
Difficult to link publicity to consumer behavior

Create press releases for grand opening, events, promotions
Consider spin, media interest to potential patients
What's news differs in a community weekly vs. a city daily
Post news online to raise search engine visibility

Develop relationships with news reporters
Make personal introduction, provide bio, references
Write letters to editor on ER accessibility, rising costs, etc.
Comment on articles online; write a blog

•Make donations, sponsor and appear at high-profile events

#### **Public Relations Examples**



