



OCTOBER 2017 - DR. JOHN RUSKEY, CAPE REGIONAL URGENT CARE.

Dr. Ruskey stated that in 2009 the Emergency Room at Cape Regional was becoming overcrowded and patients with minor problems had to wait a long time for treatment. A patient needs immediate care in an emergency. Any other patient needs treatment within 24 hours.

Urgent Care caters for illness and injury. Time is important for relatively minor situations. The medical staff handles cases as a fast area of the emergency department.

An electronic prescribing formula has been developed. The efficient prescription program means that patients can be given some medicine as prescriptions to be filed by the pharmacy.

Radio communication is also used to get results quickly, for example a patient can be sent to the hospital for an X-ray and results are obtained within an hour.

Overall, it was felt that access to urgent care in Cape May County was not good. The culture in the Center is based on teamwork. It is also less expensive than the ER. The Court House Center has been in operation for 7 years. One was opened in Wildwood recently and there will be a center in Marmora.

If a problem needs input from a specialist there is a list of specialists available and an appointment can be got quickly. In answer to questions, Dr. Ruskey stated that the Center carries out a number of tests such as urinalysis, strep test, mono test, flu tests. They can check kidney function, sugars, etc. but do not do a complete blood count. They complement the services but do not replace the services of family doctors. If a patient needs a cat scan, MRI, ultrasound there is an agreement with a facility in the hospital to get the procedures done quickly and patients will be sent over.

All the Urgent care centers have board-certified physicians and many are emergency certified. All nurses are ER nurses.

About 1-2% of the patients coming to Urgent Care are sent to the hospital. The Center can take care of certain emergencies. Many insurances are taken.