

# PRESS-REGISTER

Mobile, Alabama

## Walk-in medical clinics open in two local Wal-Mart stores

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Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM -- Non-emergency medical help will be available at walk-in clinics opening Wednesday inside eight Wal-Mart stores in Alabama, including locations in Tillman's Corner and Bay Minette.

The CheckUps clinics, staffed by nurse practitioners, were also scheduled to open at 9 a.m. today in two Wal-Mart stores in Huntsville and one each in Trussville, Gardendale, Hartselle and Athens, Bay Minette and Mobile.

The local stores include the Wal-Mart at 5245 Service Road South in Tillman's Corner and on McMeans Avenue in Bay Minette.

The nurse practitioners, who work with local physicians, diagnose common ailments, provide routine pediatric care, blood screenings and immunizations, and can write prescriptions, according to a company news release.

The company says visits usually take less than 15 minutes, and no appointments are necessary. A routine visit for a medical problem like a cold or flu costs \$65, while routine child and adolescent health care ranges from \$30 to \$50, according to the CheckUps Web site, which lists charges for its various medical services.

"CheckUps offers consumers a new, lower-cost option for non-emergency health care," CheckUps chairman Jack Tawil said in a statement.

The new clinics are opening with a Valentines Day promotion that offers free screenings, including cholesterol and blood pressure, body-fat analysis, peak flow lung capacity readings and glucose analysis. The company said the free screenings will be offered through Feb. 21.

The company, which already operates eight clinics in Wal-Mart stores in Florida and Mississippi, is also opening six more Wednesday in Mississippi and Louisiana.

(Press-Register staff contributed to this report.)