

# The Birmingham News

## Walk-in clinics set up shop in Wal-Mart

Trussville, Gardendale stores among 14 chosen

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CheckUps, a cost-cutting medical retailer that operates inside Wal-Mart stores, is opening 14 new clinics on Wednesday in the South, including two in the Birmingham area.

The walk-in clinics are scheduled to open in Wal-Mart stores in Trussville at 5919 Trussville Crossings Parkway, and Gardendale at 890 Odum Road. Six more CheckUps clinic openings in Alabama on Wednesday are scheduled for Huntsville, Hartselle, Athens, Bay Minette and Mobile. Another six are opening in Mississippi and Louisiana. Opening events are scheduled for 9 a.m.

The clinics, which lease space in Wal-Mart stores, are staffed with certified nurse practitioners who work with local physicians. They diagnose and treat common ailments such as strep throat, ear and sinus infections, and provide routine pediatric care, blood screenings and immunizations.

CheckUp nurse practitioners can write prescriptions. Visits usually take less than 15 minutes, and no appointments are necessary, the company says.

According to the CheckUps Web site, a routine visit for a medical problem like a cold or flu costs \$65. A hemoglobin A1C test, a critical measure of blood sugar for diabetics, costs \$20. A panel of tests for heart disease and stroke costs \$200.

"CheckUps offers consumers a new, lower-cost option for non-emergency health care," Jack Tawil, chairman and chief executive officer of CheckUps, said in a prepared statement. "Our mission is to deliver high-quality, affordable non-urgent medical care in a convenient and accessible format available to everyone in our country. CheckUps is the new model for basic health care delivery in America."

The new clinics are opening with a Valentines Day promotion. They are offering free "Good for Your Heart" screenings including cholesterol, blood pressure, body-fat analysis, peak flow lung capacity readings and glucose analysis. The screenings will be offered free from Wednesday through Feb. 21, the company said.

CheckUps already operates eight clinics in Wal-Mart stores in Florida and Mississippi.

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