

Lower emergency department wait times in Central LHIN

NEWS

June 24, 2010

Residents in the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) are receiving emergency care faster thanks to continuous improvements in our emergency department wait times. According to the most recent available data, Central LHIN has the third best rate of improvement in the province for wait times for all patients who are treated and then discharged from the emergency department.

This is particularly good news given Central LHIN hospitals have been faced with the highest growth in the number of very sick people that are showing up in our emergency departments needing emergency care.

Hospitals in Central LHIN have also achieved this improvement without losing focus on patient safety and quality of care. The number of people discharged from the emergency department that need to return within seven days – a key indicator of the appropriateness of the care received – continues to be the lowest in the province.

Community programs and services that reduce the time seniors spend in acute care beds waiting for alternate levels of care such as rehabilitation, long-term care or home care, play a key role in reducing the time people wait in emergency departments. Improving the health system overall to better meet the needs of our seniors will continue to be important as Central LHIN's population aged 65+ is expected to grow at a greater-than-average rate over the next 10 years: 52% versus the provincial rate of 41.4%.

QUOTES

The positive results in reducing emergency care wait times at Markham Stouffville Hospital will assure local residents that they can receive the health care they need, close to home. This is a significant achievement for the dedicated teams at our hospital and the Central LHIN, and indicative of their hard work to deliver on our government's strategy to reduce wait times and create a system of transparency and accountability.

— Michael Chan, MPP, Markham-Unionville

Reducing the time people spend waiting in the emergency department is both a provincial and a Central LHIN priority so we are very excited by these positive and progressive results. Through our Aging at Home investments and focus on collaboration and partnerships across sectors and across the continuum of care, we look forward to this trend continuing.

— Kim Baker, Chief Executive Officer, Central LHIN

Our hospitals are seeing positive outcomes through initiatives such as the placement of case managers in our emergency departments, improved triage processes and extended diagnostic imaging hours, just to name a few. These improvements speak to the ongoing efforts of our health service providers to ensure residents in our LHIN are receiving the care they need, more quickly.

— Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Central LHIN Emergency Department Lead, Humber River Regional Hospital

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QUICK FACTS

- Six of Central LHIN's [seven public and three private hospitals](#) operate emergency departments.
- Central LHIN's [Integrated Health Service Plan](#) (IHSP) 2010-2013 outlines four key priorities, including emergency department/alternate level of care, chronic disease management and prevention, mental health and addictions and health equity.
- Over the next 10 years, Central LHIN will experience greater-than-average population aging:
 - o the number of seniors aged 65+ in our LHIN is projected to grow by an additional 110,720 seniors, which is an increase of 52%. In comparison, the whole province projects a 41.4% increase over that same period.
 - o the number of seniors aged 85+ in our LHIN is projected to grow by an additional 16,277 seniors, which is an increase of 58.6%. In comparison, the whole province projects a 37.7% increase over that same period.
- In the fiscal 2008-09 year, there were over 700 visits to the emergency department for every 1,000 seniors aged 85+ in Central LHIN.
- Seniors aged 85+ in our LHIN represent 32.7% of the total number of people who occupy acute care beds while waiting for alternate levels of care.
- June is Seniors' Month – an opportunity for all Ontarians to recognize and value the contributions made by seniors every day in communities across the province.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about Central LHIN's [emergency department/alternate level of care priority](#).

For more information:

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Download Central LHIN's new Integrated Health Service Plan 2010-2013: [Creating Caring Communities, Healthier People... Together](#)