

News Release/Pour publication immédiate

Shorter Wait Times for Patients in the SE LHIN

Belleville, Ontario (June 7, 2011) - Ontario through the Pay for Results initiative is giving three hospitals sites in the South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN) area, the support they need to reduce emergency room (ER) wait times. These hospital sites are Kingston General Hospital, and Quinte Healthcare Corporation Belleville and Trenton sites.

This year, these hospitals in the SE LHIN will receive financial support to help further reduce ER wait times by implementing initiatives such as: Offload delay Registered Nurses, E-track staff, Triage Transition Registered Nurses, Admission Registered Nurses, Point of Care Technology, and ED PIP (Emergency Department Process Improvement Program) quality improvements teams.

A new component of this year's Pay for Results program is funding for hospital short-stay beds to reduce the time admitted patients spend in the ER. A total of 24 hospitals will receive funding to operate these short-stay beds.

With this investment, one hospital in the SE LHIN, Kingston General Hospital will be funded to operate 7 short-stay beds. Short-stay beds will be located in hospital in-patient wards. Only patients admitted through the ER will have access to these beds, where they may stay up to 72 hours before being discharged or transferred to another unit in the hospital. The beds will help improve the flow in ERs by ensuring patients receive the right care in the right setting, and are transferred out of the ER sooner.

87 per cent of those patients who visit the SELHIN emergency rooms with minor/uncomplicated conditions and not admitted to hospital, are being seen within the provincial targets.

QUOTES

"We look forward to more success in reducing ER wait times this year. We're excited about improving the flow of patients through the ER with the new capacity relief initiative and finding appropriate community care for ALC patients."

- Paul Huras, SE LHIN CEO

QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario government is providing the 14 LHINs funding to help hospitals put in place initiatives that reduce bottlenecks in the ER – such as patient flow tracking systems and hiring nurse practitioners to treat patients with less complex conditions.

- 84 per cent of all Ontarians who visit emergency rooms are being seen within provincial targets – four hours for patients with minor/uncomplicated conditions and eight hours for patients with complex or serious conditions.
- This program helps hospitals meet specific ER wait time reduction targets. This year, 74 Ontario hospitals will receive ER wait times reduction funding. All participating hospitals have committed to improving their ER wait times performance over last year.

LEARN MORE

Learn about [alternatives to a hospital ER](#).

Find out more about the [reporting of the time spent in ERs](#).

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