



Jeff Leal, M.P.P.

Peterborough

Shorter ER Wait Times For Peterborough Area Residents *McGuinty Government's Investment Helping ERs Better Serve Patients*

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario is helping to reduce the time Peterborough area residents spend in emergency rooms.

This year, Peterborough Regional Health Centre is receiving \$1,035,800 to further reduce ER wait times by implementing initiatives such as: reducing the Time to Physician Initial Assessment; sustaining process improvements made at triage; shifting physician coverage to match peak volumes; and increasing physician availability by increasing regularly scheduled coverage.

PRHC is also receiving \$290,300 in bonus funding for treating more patients within provincial targets in the second half of the last fiscal year. This funding will be used to further address access and flow improvements between the ER and inpatient units, and improving lab and DI test results turnaround times.

As of March 2011, at PRHC, **82** percent of ER patients were treated within the provincial targets which are four hours for patients with minor/uncomplicated conditions and eight hours for patients with complex or serious conditions.

Today's announcement is part of the government's [Open Ontario Plan](#) to provide more access to health care services while improving quality and accountability for patients.

QUOTES

"PRHC has clearly shown itself to be a leader in taking innovative steps to provide timely, high quality emergency care for its patients. These efforts not only improve access to high quality health care, but also they are helping to improve the patient experience."

- Jeff Leal, MPP

"I'm especially proud of the hospitals that consistently provide high quality, efficient care for patients in their community and I'm excited to be moving forward with this investment so we can keep building on this progress."

- Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Today's announcement further demonstrates PRHC's performance improvements. Our clinical leadership and front line staff have worked very hard over the past year to improve wait times and the overall patient experience. We thank the government for their commitment to our hospital with this further investment."

- Ken Tremblay, President and CEO. PRHC.



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“Today’s announcement clearly recognizes the outstanding work being done by our hospitals, their physicians, nurses and other front line staff as they continue to introduce new initiatives. Together these organizations and other health care providers in our communities are focused on the LHIN’s strategic aim of saving 1,000,000 hours of time that patients spend in our emergency departments by 2013.”

Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is providing a total of \$100 million to help 74 Ontario 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.
- These busy hospitals represent more than 75 per cent of all ER visits in Ontario.
- 84 per cent of all Ontario patients who visit emergency rooms are being seen within the provincial targets which are four hours for patients with minor/uncomplicated conditions and eight hours for patients with complex/serious conditions.
- Total time spent in ER is the maximum time nine out of 10 Ontarians spend in the ER and is measured from the moment patients register or initially see a triage nurse until the time they leave the ER. The time they leave the ER may be when they are sent home after being treated or when they are admitted to hospital.
- The government will also be helping more alternate level of care (ALC) patients find appropriate care in the community by increasing funding to the community care sector by three per cent in 2011/12.

LEARN MORE

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

Find out more about the [ER wait times reporting](#).

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