



Province commits nearly \$1.5 million to York Central ER

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Reducing emergency room wait times are one of the challenges all hospitals face on a daily basis. The provincial government will offer nearly \$1.5 in funding to York Central Hospital in this effort.

The announcement was made last week by Richmond Hill MPP Dr. Reza Moridi, who outlined that the Ontario government funding strategy will include: \$1.485 million towards York Central Hospital's emergency room performance and \$416,667 to the Region of York for ambulance off-load nurses, who benefit York Central's emergency room.

The funding should also provide one new physician assistant to the health care centre.

According to the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, York Central Hospital wait times as of December 2008 were above the provincial target, but in line with the provincial average.

With additional funding from the McGuinty Liberal government and the recent completion of various new care units at York Central - including the state-of-the-art intensive care unit - the hope is that one year from now wait times will be significantly reduced.

"We welcome this funding by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care and we appreciate the recognition by the ministry that York Central Hospital has enormous pressure on our facility and team members to serve such a quickly growing and expanding community," said Jo-Anne Marr, York Central Hospital acting president and CEO.

The "enormous pressure" last year came in the form of more than 69,000 patients visiting York Central Hospital's emergency room, which translates to roughly 189 patients each day; a 10 per cent increase over the previous year's numbers.

Dr. Indy Ghosh, chief and clinical director of the hospital's emergency medicine program, forecasts even larger numbers this year.

"Already this year, we are tracking to care for 75,000 patients over the upcoming year. This funding will help us to streamline and implement processes to help with pressures of patient demand. Our goal remains to provide excellent patient care while improving access for our community."

Dr. Moridi is confident the provincial approach will help achieve such results.

"The McGuinty government is working with the province's hospitals to ensure our ERs are running as efficiently as possible".

"Our ER strategy, along with our improvements to community services for seniors, will help to reduce the time people spend in ERs," Dr. Moridi said.

Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket received \$1,402,500 towards improved

emergency room performance, while Markham Stouffville Hospital received \$1,170,500.

To review emergency room wait times you can visit www.health.gov.on.ca