



## CENTRAL EAST LHIN INVESTING IN INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY ROOM PERFORMANCE

May 22, 2009

### NEWS

The Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is receiving funding through the province's ER Strategy for a number of initiatives to reduce emergency room wait times and improve patient satisfaction.

Of the \$82 million province-wide investment for 2009/10, Central East LHIN will benefit through:

- \$7,095,200 to provide funding incentives to designated hospitals and their community partners to deal with significant ER challenges by reducing the number of visits and the amount of time patients spend in the ER;
- A new physician assistant to work in a local Emergency Department;
- Funding for municipalities for dedicated nurses to care for patients, who arrive at ERs by ambulance, to ease ambulance offload delays;
- Investments in community projects to help patients with chronic or palliative conditions receive care in the community and avoid frequent ER visits;
- An emergency room process improvement program that will deliver coaching teams and tools to help select hospitals improve processes and patient access in ERs; and,
- Continued investments for helping Ontarians identify the health care options in their communities – such as walk in clinics or family health teams – that are appropriate alternatives to ERs.

Today's announcement will allow hospitals to redesign processes to reduce time spent in the emergency department and builds on the initiatives announced earlier this week [to expand access to home and community-based services](#) which will help some patients avoid unnecessary ER visits and lengthy hospital stays.

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## Central East LHIN



### QUOTES

“We made some significant progress working with hospitals and their health care partners in our communities to reduce the amount of time people spend in emergency departments,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO of the Central East LHIN. “We look forward to continuing to work with hospitals and community agencies to ensure the very best emergency care everywhere for patients.”

### QUICK FACTS

- In February, the government began [publicly reporting the time people spend in ERs](#) while setting targets of four hours for patients with minor or uncomplicated (90 per cent of patients) conditions and eight hours for patients with complex conditions (90 per cent of patients).
- Knowing your health care options allows you to make better choices for you and your family's health care needs. [Your Health Care Options](#) allows CE LHIN residents to explore the different health care choices available in their community.

For more information:

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