

September 16, 2009

## ACUTE CARE AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CAPACITY

### **In Edmonton and area:**

- About 160 patients a day are in hospital waiting for community living options and services;
- About 420 community living options will open over the next three years;
- About 160 patients will be transferred from hospitals to the new community living spaces as they are opened. Funding for about 140 of the beds not being used for acute care will be used to meet demand and resources directed to community care;
- The remainder, 20 beds, will be released to assist with Emergency Department pressures;
- AHS has planned for about 150 of the 420 community spaces to be designated for Mental Health patients, but will continue to consult with staff and psychiatrists to determine the final numbers of patients that will be transferred;
- All hospital beds will continue to be staffed until new capacity comes on stream.

### **In Calgary and area:**

- About 190 patients a day are in hospital waiting for community living options and services;
- About 355 community living spaces will open over the next 12 to 18 months;
- About 190 patients will be transferred from hospitals to the new community living spaces as they are opened. About 150 of the beds not being used for acute care will be used as required to meet demand and resources directed to community care;
- The remainder, 40 beds, will be used to assist with Emergency Department pressures as needed;
- All hospital beds will continue to be staffed until new capacity comes on stream.

## Re-Directing Resources:

- In Edmonton, about \$13 million will be invested in expanded community care programs. It is estimated that the transition will result in annualized savings of about \$35 million by 2011-2012. Similarly, in Calgary, about \$13 million will be invested in expanded community care programs. The transition savings will be about \$16.5 million by 2011-2012. The Alberta total is \$51.5 million. In both cases, the savings in 2009-2010 are initially modest, as a result of the new community services coming on stream late in the financial year and because the new community services must open before any new acute services reduction, and resulting savings, can be realized. Annualized savings are the amounts that can be achieved on a per-year basis once the transition is complete.