

**Number of People Waiting in an Acute/Sub-Acute Hospital Bed for Continuing Care**
**Full data definition sign-off complete.**

<b>Name of Measure</b>	Access to continuing care: Number of people waiting in an acute care / subacute hospital bed for continuing care.
<b>Name of Measure (short)</b>	Number of people waiting in an acute care / subacute hospital bed for continuing care.
<b>Definition</b>	<p>The number of people waiting in an acute care / sub acute hospital bed for continuing care is defined as the number of individual persons assessed and approved for publicly funded continuing care living options who are waiting in acute care and sub-acute care hospital beds at a specific point in time.</p> <p>These acute care and sub-acute care hospital beds include acute care beds, palliative care beds, transition beds, and acute mental health beds (such as beds at Alberta Hospital Edmonton, or at the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury). Continuing care is defined as including Supportive Living Level 3, Supportive Living Level 4, Supportive Living Level 4 Dementia, and Long Term Care Facility Care.</p> <p>The total number of people waiting for continuing care, and the total number of people waiting for each type of continuing care, are to calculated on the last day of the month in each quarter of a given fiscal year; that is, on the last day of June, September, December, and March.</p> <p>Individual persons will be assessed as needing continuing care according to the AHS "Admission Guidelines for Publicly Funded Continuing Care Living Options", and then waitlisted according to current available continuing care living options.</p>
<b>Domain</b>	Domain: Health System Performance - Continuing Care. Dimension: Accessibility.
<b>Type of Measure</b>	Process Measure
<b>Business Context</b>	<p>Government of Alberta. Strategic Business Plan 2011-2014. Alberta Health and Wellness. Business Plan 2011-2014. Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services. Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan. Alberta Health and Wellness. Continuing Care Strategy. December 2008. Alberta Health Services 2010 – 2015 Health Plan. Alberta Health Services 2011 – 2015 Health Plan.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Goal 2 of Alberta's 5_year Health Action Plan is that "All Albertans requiring continuing care will have access to appropriate option for (continuing) care within one month (30 days) (p. 11). To support achievement of this goal, the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health services will add and refurbish more long-term care beds and supportive living spaces, with the expected benefit to Albertans that fewer people will wait in hospital beds for continuing care. By 2014-2015, the target is 250 people waiting is hospital beds for continuing care. This performance measure is used to monitor and report on progress toward reducing this goal.</p> <p>Access to continuing care service is a major issue in Alberta. By improving access to a few key areas AHS will be able to improve flow throughout the system, provide more appropriate care, decrease wait times and deliver care in a more cost effective manner. AHS wants to offer seniors and persons with disabilities more options for quality accommodations that suit their lifestyles and service needs.</p>
<b>Notes for Interpretation</b>	See Technical Specifications.

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<b>Organizational Strategy</b>	<p>Alberta Health and Wellness. Continuing Care Strategy. December 2008.</p> <p>Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services. Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan. Strategy 2: Provide More Choice for Continuing Care. <a href="http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/5-year-health-action-plan.html">http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/5-year-health-action-plan.html</a></p> <p>Alberta Health Services. Choice and Quality for Seniors AHS TIP #3</p>
<b>Benchmark Comparisons</b>	<p>None available at this time.</p>
<b>Cited References:</b>	<p>Government of Alberta. Strategic Business Plan 2011-2014. Available at <a href="http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2011/goa-business-plan.pdf">http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2011/goa-business-plan.pdf</a></p> <p>Alberta Health and Wellness. Business Plan 2011-2014. Available at <a href="http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2011/health-wellness.pdf">http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2011/health-wellness.pdf</a></p> <p>Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services. Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan. Available at <a href="http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf">http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Becoming-the-Best-2010.pdf</a></p> <p>Alberta Health and Wellness. Continuing Care Strategy. December 2008. Available at <a href="http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Continuing-Care-Strategy-2008.pdf">http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Continuing-Care-Strategy-2008.pdf</a></p> <p>Alberta Health Services. 2011 – 2015 Health Plan: Improving Health for All Albertans. Available at <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3238.asp">http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3238.asp</a></p> <p>Alberta Health Services. 2010-2015 Health Plan. Available at <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Publications/ahs-pub-2010-2015-health-plan.pdf">http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Publications/ahs-pub-2010-2015-health-plan.pdf</a></p> <p>Alberta Health Services. Admission Guidelines for Publicly Funded Continuing Care Living Options. Available at <a href="http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/sh/tms-sh-principles-document.pdf">http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/sh/tms-sh-principles-document.pdf</a>.</p>

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### Technical Specifications

<b>Metric</b>	Number of people
<b>Preferred Display Format</b>	9,999
<b>Numerator</b>	Count of the number of individual persons assessed and approved for publicly funded continuing care who are waiting in acute care or sub acute care beds at the end of a specified month, quarter, or fiscal year.
<b>Inclusion Criteria for Numerator</b>	Includes people who have been assessed and approved for publicly funded continuing care living option, and who are waiting in an acute care /sub-acute hospital bed for continuing care. These acute care and sub-acute care hospital beds include acute care beds, palliative care beds, transition beds, and acute mental health beds (such as beds at Alberta Hospital Edmonton, or at the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury).
<b>Exclusion Criteria for Numerator</b>	Excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who are in the process of being assessed and approved for publicly funded continuing care living options</li> <li>• People waiting in acute or sub-acute bed in another zone (or former region) for placement within the reporting zone. <b>This is to avoid double counting.</b></li> <li>• People waiting in community mental health facilities such as Raymond Centre or Claresholm Centre for Mental Health and Addictions</li> <li>• People waiting for home care services (inclusive of Supportive Living Levels 1 and 2)</li> <li>• People waiting in acute for a transfer to a sub acute unit or a rehab unit for rehabilitation</li> <li>• People waiting in an acute care bed/service for another acute care bed/service (e.g., surgical bed to a medical bed)</li> <li>• People waiting in a tertiary acute care hospital bed for transfer to a non-tertiary acute care hospital bed (e.g., repatriation to community hospital)</li> <li>• People waiting in a continuing care hospice or palliative unit that is not part of an acute care facility. These individuals will be included in the count of waiting in community</li> </ul>
<b>Data Source(s) for Numerator</b>	Data is provided by Alberta Health Services' Zones, according to the nine former health regions. North, South and Central Zones use MediTech, and some manual and semi-automated data collection. Calgary and Edmonton Zones use Strata Health – Pathways. Reports are provided to DIMR, and manually collated into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.
<b>Refresh Rate of Numerator</b>	The Zones provide the data by the 10 <sup>th</sup> of the following month, and the consolidated monthly report is available by the 15 <sup>th</sup> of the following month.
<b>Denominator</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Inclusion Criteria for Denominator</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Exclusion Criteria for Denominator</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Data Source(s) for Denominator</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Refresh Rate of Denominator</b>	Not applicable.

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<b>Technical Notes</b>	AHS will provide AHW with a quarterly aggregate non identifiable report.	
<b>Calculation</b>	<p>The number of persons waiting in an acute care / sub acute hospital bed for continuing care is calculated as the arithmetic sum, at a specific point in time, of the total number of individual persons assessed and approved for publicly funded continuing care who are waiting in an acute care, or a sub-acute care hospital bed, for any of the following types of continuing care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive living (SL) level 3,</li> <li>Supportive living (SL) level 4</li> <li>Supportive living dementia (SLD) level 4</li> <li>Long term care (LTC) facility care.</li> </ul> <p>The specific point in time when the number of people waiting for continuing care is to be calculated is the last day of the month of each quarter in a fiscal year; that is, the last day of June, September, December, and March in a given fiscal year. The last day of March (March 31) in a given fiscal year is the date to be used in calculation of the result for this measure to be reported in the annual reports of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Health and Wellness, and Alberta Health Services.</p>	
<b>Relationship to Other Indicators</b>	This measure is related to the measure of the number of people waiting in the community for continuing care.	
<b>Level of Reporting</b>	<p>AHW – Provincial and Zone, by type of continuing care needed.  AHS – Provincial, Zone, and Hospital, by type of continuing care needed.  Types of continuing care reported are to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive living (SL) level 3</li> <li>Supportive living (SL) level 4</li> <li>Supportive living dementia (SLD) level 4</li> <li>Long term care (LTC) facility care.</li> </ul>	
<b>Frequency of Reporting</b>	<p>Submission of the data from the Zones to AHS  AHS Consolidation of the Monthly Zone Submissions  Reporting within AHS  Reporting to AHW</p>	<p>Monthly  Monthly  Monthly  Quarterly and Annually</p>
<b>Limitations</b>	<p>Currently data is collected according to the nine former health regions and collated manually to obtain a provincial count of the number of people waiting for continuing care.</p> <p>There may be issues with the accuracy, validity and reliability of the designation of patients waiting in acute and subacute care beds for continuing care due to variations in current availability of supportive living options, as well as variations in methods of recording patient status over the reporting period.</p> <p>It is not possible to analyze data at the level of individual persons waiting for continuing care. Summary data only are provided.</p>	

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**Document Version History**

Version	Version Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	May 18, 2010	Final version for initial use.
	August 3, 2010	Added content
1.1	September 22, 2010	Review and comments.
1.2	December 7, 2010	Update based on review meeting.
1.3	December 15, 2010	Align title and names, update edits and add signoff page.
1.4	December 20, 2010	Update business context.
1.5	February 1, 2011	Update Organizational Strategy, Refresh Rate of Numerator and Technical Notes
1.6	February 17, 2011	Revisions
2.0	February 18, 2011	Version ready for signoff.
2.1	July 12, 2011	Changed N/A to Not Applicable Added sign-off contacts Correct position titles.
2.2	July 25, 2011	Reviewed and revised the operational definition, domain, rationale, organizational strategy, calculation of results, level of reporting, frequency of reporting, limitations, cited references, and edits to AHW organizational branch information.
2.3	July 25, 2011	Reviewed and revised. Content areas needing clarification from AHS are highlighted.
2.4	August 12, 2011	Reviewed and discussed with AHS. Content areas needing clarification from AHS are highlighted.
2.5	August 16, 2011	Added hyperlink to references.
3.0	August 16, 2011	Version ready for signoff.
3.1	August 18, 2011	Removed word "Designated"
3.2	August 18, 2011	Changed AHW Executive Sponsor-Business
3.3	September 22, 2011	Full data definition signoff completed.