

Emergency Department Length of Stay for Admitted Patients

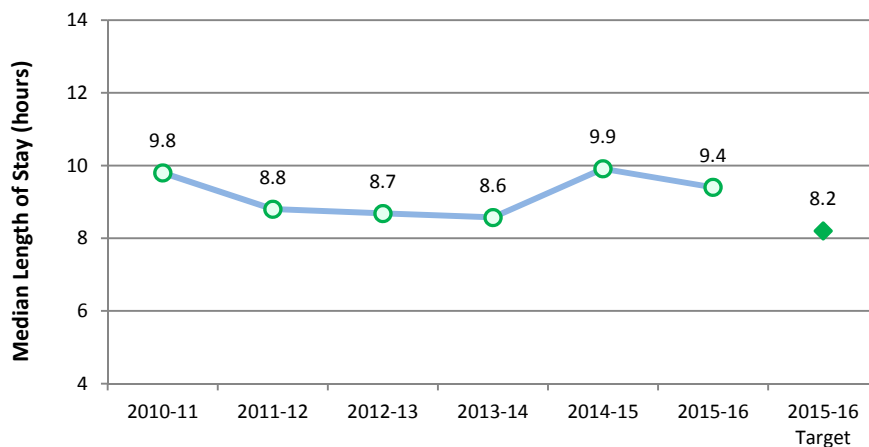
Measure Definition

The average patient's length of time (hours) in the emergency department before being admitted to a hospital bed at the busiest emergency departments. This is calculated as the median length of stay which means that 50 per cent of patients stay in the emergency department this length of time or less, before being admitted. This measure is the time between when a patient is assessed by a nurse in the emergency department until the time they are admitted.

Understanding this Measure

This measure reflects the performance of the entire system. It is influenced by our ability to manage complex patients in primary care, efficiencies in the Emergency Department, efficiencies and capacity in the acute care (when staying in hospital), better quality of care and integration with community services in reducing unplanned readmissions, timely placement of patients into continuing care (e.g., long-term care) and linking patients to the appropriate services in the community after a stay in hospital.

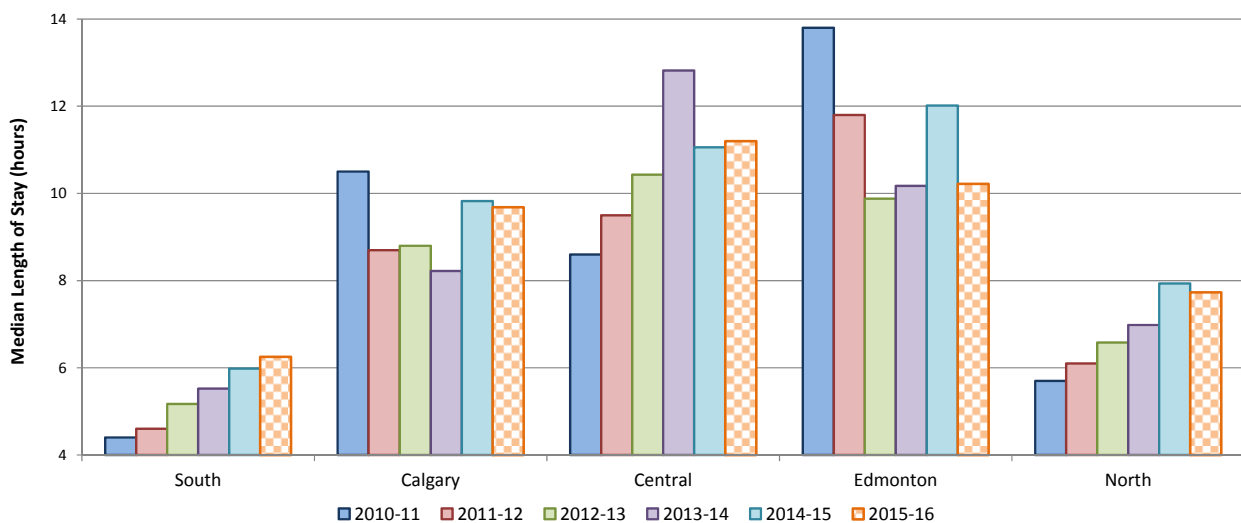
ED Length of Stay for Admitted Patients - Annual



How Do We Compare?

Alberta ranked 3rd best nationally out of five provinces.

ED Length of Stay for Admitted Patients - by Zone



ED Length of Stay for Admitted Patients – Actions

Provincial/ Strategic Clinical Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoACT implementation is underway in all zones which will start to demonstrate a positive impact on efficiency and emergency department (ED) flow. Work is underway to review diagnostic testing protocols to reduce testing where appropriate. Continued ED quality council committee initiatives including: triage efficiencies, wayfinding improvements, optimization of treatment spaces, and proper triage of two of acute and ambulatory patients resulting in less movement throughout the department.
South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with ED physicians and hospitalists to improve efficiency in the decision to admit and admission orders process. Continue to utilize daily bed huddles to ensure patient discharges are identified in timely manner. At Chinook Regional Hospital, ongoing collaboration with specialists to ensure timely consults in an effort to reduce length of stay on admitted patients.
Calgary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing improved processes to support transfer of ED admitted patients to inpatient units. Pilot started at Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) to support both timely transfer of patients to inpatients and prompt ED discharge. Collaborating with the Alberta Children Hospital mental health liaison to ensure optimal patient movement with FMC and South Health Campus adolescent unit. In conjunction with the physician group, created a surge strategy to address physician coverage. The sites also continue to liaison with their Primary Care Networks to provide options to patients with lower acuity to access care in the community.
Central	<p>Red Deer Regional Hospital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repatriated patients to rural sites and received diverted ED patients from rural sites. Medworxx data used to identify and address long hospital length of stay. General Internal Medicine Clinic implementation planning completed to reduce inpatient length of stay.
Edmonton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At University of Alberta Hospital (UAH), implementation of ED to ED business rule: change in practice for triage nurses responding to demands of Inter-Facility Transfers to meet 30 minute off load targets. Improved coordination of transport arrival times and consideration of Zone Triage Time to prioritize these patients at triage. Work continues to optimize patient flow in the Rapid Transfer Unit (RTU) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH) and UAH. Trauma Team Activation improved at UAH and RAH through focused work. Focused quality improvement work underway with general surgery, neurology and orthopedics.
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing implementation of strategies to mitigate barriers to admission. Increased education to enhance commitment to length of stay performance metrics.

IN SUMMARY

Q4 year-to-date demonstrated an improvement provincially and in three reporting zones compared to the same period as last year.

Other initiatives are underway including operationalizing in-progress bed movement process to move patients to vacant beds in a more timely fashion.

AHS has created care units in some of its urban hospitals – called the Rapid Transfer Unit in Edmonton and the Rapid Access Unit in Calgary. These units are located next to the EDs and allow care providers to observe patients receiving treatments for a longer period of time, with the goal of being able to send them home rather than admit them to hospital.

ED Length of Stay for Admitted Patients – Zone and Site Details

The average patient's length of time (hours) in the emergency department before being admitted to a hospital bed at the busiest emergency departments.

ED LOS Admitted - Busiest Sites	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Q4 YTD		Trend *	2015-16 Target
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current		
Provincial	8.7	8.6	9.9	9.9	9.4	↑	8.2
South Zone Total	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.3	↓	5.1
Chinook Regional Hospital	5.6	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	↓	5.5
Medicine Hat Regional Hospital	4.8	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.3	↓	4.7
Calgary Zone Total	8.8	8.2	9.8	9.8	9.7	↑	8.3
Alberta Children's Hospital	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.8	6.5	↑	6.4
Foothills Medical Centre	8.5	8.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	↑	8.3
Peter Lougheed Centre	9.8	9.1	11.5	11.5	11.5	→	8.8
Rockyview General Hospital	9.4	8.6	11.1	11.1	10.5	↑	8.7
South Health Campus	N/A	8.1	10.2	10.2	11.5	↓	8.3
Central Zone Total	10.4	12.8	11.1	11.1	11.2	↓	9.0
Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre	10.4	12.8	11.1	11.1	11.2	↓	9.0
Edmonton Zone Total	9.9	10.2	12.0	12.0	10.2	↑	8.8
Grey Nuns Community Hospital	13.3	16.8	23.5	23.5	20.7	↑	9.4
Misericordia Community Hospital	12.0	12.5	17.0	17.0	12.5	↑	9.3
Royal Alexandra Hospital	9.7	9.9	11.5	11.5	9.8	↑	8.8
Stollery Children's Hospital	7.8	7.4	8.6	8.6	7.4	↑	7.7
Sturgeon Community Hospital	13.4	20.5	28.4	28.4	18.6	↑	9.4
University of Alberta Hospital	9.2	9.1	10.4	10.4	9.0	↑	8.6
North Zone Total	6.6	7.0	7.9	7.9	7.7	↑	6.5
Northern Lights Regional Health Centre	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.3	→	5.3
Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	8.3	8.6	11.0	11.0	11.4	↓	8.2

N/A: No results available. South Health Campus opened February 2013.

*Trend: ↑ Improvement → Stability ↓ Area requires additional focus

ED Admissions from ED - Busiest Sites	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Q4 YTD	
				2014-15 Last Year	2015-16 Current
Provincial	130,323	133,310	137,390	137,390	140,344
South Zone	11,475	11,656	11,939	11,939	11,598
Calgary Zone	52,473	54,634	56,732	56,732	58,023
Central Zone	8,901	8,815	9,254	9,254	9,730
Edmonton Zone	49,988	50,644	51,858	51,858	53,521
North Zone	7,486	7,561	7,607	7,607	7,472