

**MEDIA RELEASE****OHA Welcomes Release of Premier's Council Report**

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) welcomes the first report released by the Premier's Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine, *Hallway Health Care: A System Under Strain*.

"On behalf of the OHA and our 141 member hospitals, we'd like to thank Dr. Rueben Devlin for his leadership and also acknowledge the important contribution of all those who shaped this important report," said Anthony Dale, President and CEO of the OHA. "System transformation is essential to truly end hallway medicine across the province. This honest, evidence-based evaluation of the current strengths and deficiencies of the health care system establishes a clear platform for change."

Hospitals are currently serving as the health system's safety net as there is simply not enough capacity across the continuum of all health services. Today, approximately one in six hospital beds is occupied patients who are waiting for care outside of hospitals - especially in long-term care or at home.

System-wide transformation will require time, creativity and leadership from everyone involved in Ontario's healthcare system. Hospitals are encouraged by this important first step on ending hallway medicine and are eager to work with government and their other partners to implement solutions that provide the people of Ontario with access to the right health services in the most appropriate setting.

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