

# A Balanced Approach to Ending Hallway Medicine for Ontario Patients and Families

## Pre-Budget Recommendations: 2019 Ontario Budget



Ending hallway medicine is a top priority for the government – and for Ontario’s hospitals. To get there we need a balanced approach – providing immediate support to hospitals, so they can maintain access to care, while also making strategic policy changes to strengthen the health system and make it more sustainable.

### A Growing Population with Nowhere to Go

Ontario’s population is rapidly growing and aging, and these population changes are already having an enormous impact on the health care system.

One of our capacity challenges is the fact that too many patients are waiting in hospital for care in more appropriate settings, like long-term care or home and community care.

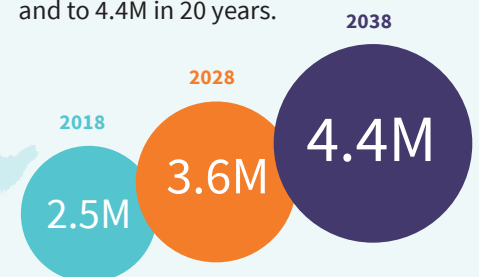


One in six hospital beds is occupied by a patient waiting for alternate level of care, which means they don’t have space for people who truly need hospital care. Many hospitals regularly operate at over 100% capacity. The widely accepted standard for hospital capacity is around 85%.

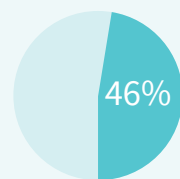
In only **10** years, Ontario’s total population will grow by an additional **1.9M** people.



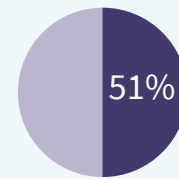
The number of seniors aged **65+** will grow from 2.5M today to 3.6M in 2028 and to 4.4M in 20 years.



In 2016, this age group accounted for:



of all health sector expenditures



of all hospital expenditures

### Hospitals: Leaders in Fiscal Efficiency

Ontario has the lowest per capita hospital funding in the country. Compared to the average of all other provinces, the Government of Ontario spends \$401 less per person on hospital care. This translates into savings of \$5.7 billion annually for other priorities.

Over the past six years, provincial government funding to Ontario hospitals has increased by only 3.5% on a per capita basis. Over the same period, the average increase among other provinces was 12%.

Hospitals are proud of their history of working with government to responsibly manage health care spending and to make every dollar count and will continue to do so. However, they are simply reaching the limit of their ability to serve patients without compromising quality of care, increasing wait times, reducing services or losing front-line staff.



# Our Recommendations

## Protect and stabilize front-line hospital care

Hospitals require a 3.45% increase in funding this year, a total of \$656 million, to maintain existing levels of care. This increase takes into account only unavoidable inflation, labour and growth costs. It represents the absolute minimum amount required today for hospitals to maintain existing levels of patient care and staffing and serve Ontario's communities.

## Build a stronger, more integrated health system

Hospitals also recognize that we need to look at longer-term solutions to build the health care system of the future. We need to find better ways to transition patients out of hospitals and empower local health providers to work together to find creative, cost-effective ways to solve the problems facing patients and families in their communities.

The Ontario Hospital Association recommends that the government support the following policy changes:

- ➔ Facilitate direct collaboration between hospitals and home and community care providers.
- ➔ Establish Service Resolution Tables that allow health care providers to work together to serve patients with complex needs.
- ➔ Enhance mental health supports in long-term care and the community so patients can transition successfully out of hospital.
- ➔ Amend the Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act to allow health service providers to better coordinate care.
- ➔ Expand innovative, patient-centred models of care that improve patient outcomes and reduce health system costs.
- ➔ Develop a provincial Health Care Capacity Plan to ensure the system has the right mix of care to meet Ontario's needs, today and in the future.



## Partnering to Build the Health Care System of the Future

Ontario's hospitals are eager to partner with government to end hallway medicine, improve care for patients and families and responsibly manage health system spending. This system transformation will take time, and as it progresses, it is vital that hospital care remains accessible to those who need it.

For more detail on our recommendations, please view our full pre-budget submission at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com).

