

# Hospitals on the Brink

Ontario's hospitals are on the brink. Many hospitals are under enormous pressure to provide care to a growing and aging population, and wait times are going up. Today, many patients are waiting far too long in hospitals to receive care at home or in long-term care. No matter which Party is

elected in June, now is the time for urgent action on health care. Ending hallway medicine will require significant long-term investments in hospitals and across the continuum-of-care, as well as a long-term capacity plan to adequately prepare for patients – now and in the future.

## Ontario Hospitals are Under Growing Pressure

Emergency department volume is a key barometer of health system performance, and growing wait times, occupancy rates, and the current practice of “hallway medicine” are warning signs of a system under significant stress.



Some emergency room patients have had to wait more than 32 hours to be admitted to hospital.



Throughout the past year, half of all hospitals were at full capacity with some hospitals at 140 per cent capacity. Safe capacity is considered to be 85 per cent.



Wait times are already too long – but over the next 25 years, the population of Ontario is expected to increase by 30 per cent.



Some patients have had to wait 55 days for important hospital tests like CT scans.



More than 17 per cent of acute hospital beds are occupied by patients who should be receiving care at home, in long-term care or in the community.



Hospital patients who are able to move to long-term care typically have to wait 92 days, meaning fewer hospital beds are available for other patients who need them.

## NOW IS THE TIME FOR LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

**A long-term commitment to funding is needed to cure Ontario's ailing health system. It will take a real commitment by government to work collaboratively with all system stakeholders to end hallway medicine in this province.**

**A well-funded public health-care system is sacred to Ontarians. Now is not the time for austerity. Now is the time to increase funding, reduce wait times, and put an end to hallway medicine so that Ontario patients can continue to receive the highest quality of care in the environment that they deserve.**



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