


Island Health Performance Measures

Alternate Level of Care



Year to Date Performance	19%	Performance Assessment	 Red
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to 10%	Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.	

What do we measure and why?

Alternate Level of Care (ALC) is a designation applied to hospital inpatients whose condition has stabilized, and who no longer need the level of care and service provided by an acute care hospital. 'Patient days' is the number of patients who were in hospital, multiplied by the number of days they spent in hospital. For example, 2 patients in hospital for 7 days each equals 14 patient days.

This indicator reports the percentage of total patient days by patients designated as ALC. Newborns are not included in the calculation.

ALC rates are monitored because beds occupied by ALC patients are not available to other patients who need specialized hospital care. As the ALC percentage increases, the availability of inpatient hospital beds decreases, and appropriate care can be delayed if patients have to wait for a bed. Emergency rooms can also become congested with patients waiting for a bed on an inpatient unit.

What is the target?

Island Health's target is 10% or lower.

Lower rates are better, as they indicate more appropriate use of acute care resources.

How are we doing?

As of November 2024, Island Health was not meeting the target.

What actions are we taking?

A regional ALC Avoidance Strategy is being designed to reflect current challenges and needs. The strategy spans the acute, community, and primary care sectors. It includes a standardized process to help with the early identification of inpatients at risk of requiring ALC, as well as patients in community or long-term care who are at risk of hospitalization. For patients who are admitted to hospital, family and community are involved soon after admission. Barriers to discharge are identified and resolved as quickly as possible. The ultimate goal is ensuring the right care in the right place at the right time.