


Wait Time in ED for an Inpatient Bed

Year to Date Performance	31%	Performance Assessment	 Red
Island Health Target	Greater than or equal to 59%	Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.	

What do we measure and why?

Patients treated at Emergency Departments (ED) sometimes require further care and are admitted to the hospital. If an inpatient hospital bed is not immediately available, the patient waits in the ED for one.

This metric reflects how often admitted patients wait in the ED less than 10 hours from triage until they leave the ED for transfer to an inpatient bed, or to another facility.

To ensure ED services are available when needed for seriously ill and injured people, those admitted patients who no longer require emergency care should be transferred to a nursing unit as soon as possible. In addition, prompt transfer to a nursing unit ensures that these patients receive appropriate and timely care. Island Health's strategic plan highlights improved access to services and patient flow as major objectives. Monitoring patient flow through the EDs aligns directly with these strategic goals.

What is the target?

The target is for 59% or more of patients to be transferred from the ED to an inpatient unit or another facility within 10 hours of triage.

Higher rates are better.

How are we doing?

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

What actions are we taking?

Improved access to services and improved patient flow are among Island Health's strategic priorities. Improving patient flow through the Emergency Departments aligns directly with these strategic goals.

Work continues to support patients in the community, prevent avoidable admissions to hospital, and identify appropriate community-based alternatives to hospital care.