

ATTENTION: ALL FACILITIES

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (MH&A ED)

GO LIVE

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

The new Mental Health and Addictions Emergency Department (MH&A ED) is scheduled to open February 27, 2024. The unit, located at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, will provide a safe and appropriate care environment for patients experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The MH&A Emergency Department has seven private assessment rooms for patients waiting for psychiatric assessment as well as a waiting room for family.

Patients experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis first present to the QEH Medical Emergency Department triage desk. The triage nurse will assess whether the patient meets criteria for MH&A ED services. If so, the patient will be escorted by staff to the MH&A ED. Reasons for exclusion include acute or emergent medical needs, high levels of agitation, and substance use withdrawal requiring medical support. If a patient requires medical clearance due to an urgent/emergent medical condition, they will remain in the Medical ED until assessed and referred onward by the Medical ED physician.

The MH&A Short Stay Unit is adjacent to the MH&A ED and will open later in 2024. This new unit will provide four beds for clients admitted for stays up to 72 hours. Patients are admitted to the Short Stay Unit by the psychiatrist on duty or Nurse Practitioner with admitting privileges.

If you have any questions about the MH&A Emergency Department &/or Short Stay Unit, please contact Erin Crane (emcrane@ihis.org) or Tanya Machon (tdmachon@ihis.org).