

Patient Flow & System Utilization Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter is produced by the Patient Flow team and its Committees to share knowledge and activities that support good patient flow across the Island health system. Good patient flow is central to a positive patient experience, optimal clinical safety and reduced pressures on staff. Experts consistently advocate focusing on patient flow as a key factor in providing effective health care.

PATIENT FLOW IS:

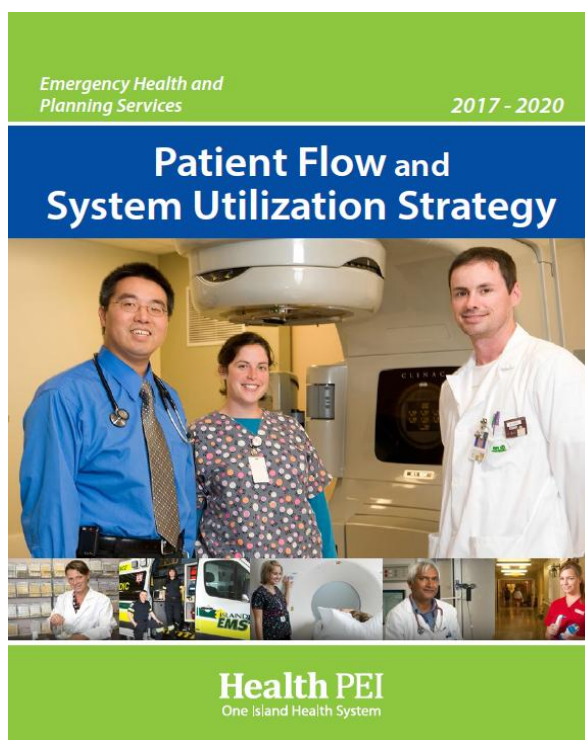
Patient flow represents the ability of the healthcare system to serve patients quickly and efficiently as they move through stages of care. When the system works well, patients flow like a river, meaning that each stage is completed with minimal delay. All sites and sectors within Health PEI that serve patients, clients or residents have an important role to play in improving flow by streamlining care and transition practices.

PATIENT FLOW & SYSTEM UTILIZATION STRATEGY

Senior Management has approved the Patient Flow and System Utilization Strategy 2017-20. The Strategy aligns with specific goals and direction within the Health PEI Strategic Plan. Priority focus areas for fiscal 2017-18 include:

- Improve hospital utilization; including bed management and ALC coding

- Improve patient flow; including ED to inpatient flow
- Support Choosing Wisely standards for DI and Lab utilization
- Support effective comprehensive care for top health system users



The Patient Flow & System Utilization team has Steering and Advisory committees in place with resource planning ongoing. Patient Flow policies are under review; these will reside within a framework and be transparent and accessible for staff. Data dashboard(s) are expanding; these will be comprised of indicators developed for the specific needs of the Advisory Committee and Acute care hospitals.

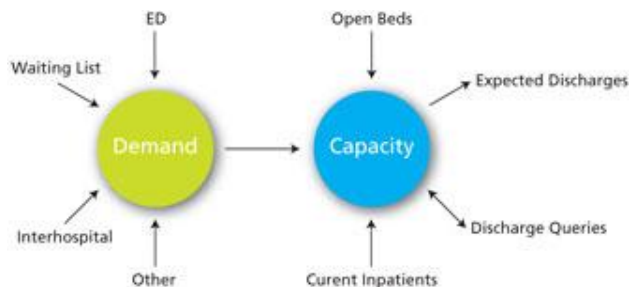
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PROVINCIAL ACUTE BED UTILIZATION

Emergency Departments and off-Island hospitals are experiencing increasing bed pressures. Best practice evidence shows that process and practice improvements in acute bed management can improve timely access to inpatient beds, along with patient outcomes.

This initiative aims to improve inter-facility patient transitions by supporting timely and appropriate transfers from off-Island and between Island hospitals. By providing a provincial resource and focus, all hospitals can engage in system-wide bed coordination and find opportunities for enhanced acute bed usage that benefits patients and staff.



Emergency Departments will experience decreased pressures from admitted patients who are transitioned more quickly to a suitable location.

Targets:

- Decrease LOS for Admitted Patients in the Emergency Department
- Decrease time from off-Island hospital discharge to HPEI hospital admission

PATIENT FLOW PROJECTS

The Patient Flow team is supporting projects that align with the goals outlined in the Strategy. Ongoing opportunities will be provided for sites and services to submit applications for project support. For fiscal 2017-18:

- Ten of 20 project applications were accepted using approved criteria.
- Project work began in September 2017; activities will be over a 6 to 8 month period.

Approved Projects:

1. On the Clock - Improving Patient Discharge Times
2. Patient Flow - EDD Practices
3. Patient Flow - Pre-Discharge Orders
4. Patient Flow - Appropriate Bed Management
5. OR Utilization - Bed Utilization and Improved Wait Times
6. Restorative Care - Flow Optimization
7. Cancer Strategy - Breast Cancer Pathway
8. Provincial Pharmacy - Serving Long Term Care Facilities
9. Centralized Referral - Options for Orthopedic Services
10. Cancer Strategy - Colorectal Cancer Pathway

Our next newsletter will come out in early 2018. You are welcome to submit ideas for inclusion.