

Report: ER wait times up year-over-year at Halton hospitals

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each hospital was not available.

Patients visiting emergency rooms at Halton Healthcare System's three hospitals saw a slight increase in wait times in 2015.

The annual report measures the health and efficiency of the Canadian healthcare system based on a number of regional metrics. Other data in the report includes stats for total time spent in emergency department for admitted patients, re-admittance statistics and hospital deaths. There are also a handful of procedural statistics given as well.

In a report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released on Nov. 30, the organization measured wait times at hospitals across the region and determined ER patients waited an average of 3.1 hours to see a physician. That was up slightly from three hours in 2014 and represents a six-minute increase.

Total time spent in emergency department for admitted patients dropped significantly over the previous year from an average of 38 hours to 29.8 in 2015 for the Halton Healthcare System. Larger hospitals saw a much less pronounced drop from 34.7 to 33 hours.

Larger area community hospitals saw ER wait times of 3.2 hours in 2015, which has remained consistent since 2013 and remains a big improvement over the numbers in 2011, when patients were forced to wait an average of 3.6 hours.

Overall re-admittance numbers jumped from 11.7 per cent to 13 per cent year-over-year, while 86 patients died in hospital compared to 85 in 2014.

The Halton numbers, which include statistic from Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, are also slightly higher than the national and provincial average of three hours. Data specific to

The combined numbers provided by the Mississauga-Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) are fairly consistent with the Halton Healthcare-specific stats.

One area where Halton Healthcare community hospitals are lagging behind



Emergency room wait times at Halton's three hospitals were up an average of six minutes over the previous year.

File photo

is the number of hip surgery patients who receive treatment within 48 hours. In all, 74.4 per cent of patients requiring hip surgery are treated at community hospitals within that period of time.

When combined with the Mississauga-Halton LHIN stats, the number of hip fracture patients receiving treatment within 48 hours jumps to 80.5 per cent.

However, that number jumps to 86.2 per cent at larger regional hospitals and sits at 85.1 and 86.1 per cent at the pro-

vincial and national level, respectively. Several requests for comment from Halton Healthcare representatives were not answered.

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