

HEALTH CARE

Emergency rooms get funding increase

'Every dollar adds up,' hospital official says

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Emergency rooms across York Region received a small boost in funding yesterday.

And local hospitals say it's no April Fool's joke.

York County Hospital in Newmarket is to receive \$609,806, followed by York Central with \$466,921 and \$282,429 for Markham Stouffville Hospital.

York Central Hospital president Frank Lussing said it will go a long way toward making up the money hospitals have already spent.

"It's welcome money, every dollar adds up and we're well on our way to meeting our revenue needs. But there's still a long way to go," said Lussing adding the provincial funding exceeded his original expectation.

The money will be applied to the \$4.5 million the hospital spent recently when it increased emergency room staffing to meet increasing demand.

"But we're also expecting to hear a lot more about growth and nursing later this month," he said.

The money was also welcomed by Markham Stouffville Hospital acting president Dr. Jim Maclean. However he had some concern about the long-term needs of the hospital.

WILL BE ENFORCED

"Obviously, it all helps to alleviate the gap in funding, but one of my concerns is this is one-time funding and if you build it in and hire staff, what happens if you don't get it the next year?"

York Central also got the go-ahead to fast-track redevelopment of its emergency room. Originally built in the '70s to accommodate 25,000 people, today it sees 58,000 annually.

The province has agreed to provide \$1.5 million or 70 per cent of the cost of the project, which will probably begin September.

Markham Stouffville received similar approval for redevelopment, but has chosen to wait until ministry funding for a larger project, addressing the whole hospital, has been approved.

The allocations are part of the \$40-million announced for emergency rooms across the province.

The funding represents the second year of the province's commitment to improve emergency room access in York Region.

A new 15-minute response standard was also introduced yesterday, designed to ensure every patient is assessed by a nurse when he or she enters an emergency department.

Accountability for the 15-minute assessment will be enforced by the individual hospitals and the Ministry of Health.

Many hospitals already assess people upon entry to the emergency room, but York Mackenzie MPP Frank Klees suggested the policy is intended for those who don't do it on a regular basis.

Eaton's NO GST Holiday Weekend

From Thursday to Monday, pay no GST on almost all regular-, sale- & clearance-priced merchandise.*

Includes Factory Outlet.

All Eaton's stores closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



EATON'S

Times have changed.

*Eaton's will deduct the equivalent of the GST from the total purchase price. The GST offer excludes Cosmetics & Fragrances, Bath & Body, Estate Jewellery, watches by Swatch, Armani, Hugo Boss, Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent & Calvin Klein, sale- & clearance-priced prestige watches, Fine Jewellery, Jewellery by Du Nouveau, Memoire Paris, Diamond Essence & the Royal Canadian Mint, Roots merchandise, selected regular-priced women's shoes by Nine West, Enzo Angiolini, Easy Spirit, Stuart & Mr Seymour, handbags by Nine West, Guess and Jeanne Lotti, Women's regular-priced designer collections (consisting of selected sportswear, dresses, suits, outerwear, swimwear & denim fashions), DKNY, hosiery, women's Calvin Klein intimates & loungewear, men's regular-priced Tommy Hilfiger, Nautica, Polo & Calvin Klein merchandise, Hugo Boss underwear, Diesel, JNCO, DKNY, Replay Denim, Mani, Valentino, Joseph Abboud, ck Calvin Klein, Roots & Mont Blanc accessories, children's regular-priced Tommy Hilfiger & Polo apparel, Beanie Babies, Lego Mindstorms, for the home: sale-priced Ralph Lauren/Polo, Liz Claiborne, Charisma, Royal Velvet, Tommy Hilfiger, Nautica & Esprit bedding & bath; Eaton beauty dolls, Lalique, Swarovski merchandise, Seagull Pewter, Lladro, Nao, Caithness glass, Royal Worcester, fine bone china, sale- & clearance-priced small electrics & personal care appliances, furniture, rugs, lamps, mattresses, sale-priced candles and frames, mirrors & pictures, Joseph Schmidt Chocolates, Eaton Gift Certificates, Eaton's Restaurants, concessions & services and Clearance Centres. Personal shopping only. Details in store. List subject to change.



1110 Finch Ave. W., Ste. 222
Toronto, Ontario M3J 2T2
Tel: (416) 561-CURE
(2673) Fax: 416-661-3840

Leukemia KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES. It can affect anyone, regardless of age, sex, or race. It infiltrates the body through white cells in the blood. It is considered a form of cancer and attacks the various blood forming tissues of the body such as the spleen, bone marrow and lymph nodes.

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune