

Consequences of Emergency Department Overcrowding

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- Patient suffering, dissatisfaction and inconvenience
- Poor patient outcomes
- Increased morbidity and mortality
- Poor quality of care
- Contribution to infectious disease outbreaks
- Violence aimed at hospital staff and physicians
- Decreased physician and nursing productivity
- Deteriorating levels of service
- Increased risk of medical error
- Negative work environments
- Negative effects on teaching and research

Source: Physician Hospital Care Committee Report to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Medical Association and Ontario Hospital Association Tripartite Committee, Improving Access to Emergency Care: Addressing System Issues, August 2006.