

# Ontario Health Coalition

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## **Proposed Scarborough-West Durham Hospital Merger: New report highlights \$30 million cost and exposes plans to close hospital sites.**

Toronto, Ontario – The Ontario Health Coalition in conjunction with the Scarborough Health Coalition released a new report today entitled “Look Before You Leap” highlighting concerns surrounding the proposed hospital merger in Scarborough-West Durham.

The bottom line is that by the hospitals own numbers this hospital merger is going to cost \$30 million; a cost that will take ten years to pay off,” said Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition. “Not only does this merger not save any money but it sets up the three hospital sites in Scarborough in particular for very significant service cuts and even total closures. In fact, documents filed with the LHIN reveal that the Scarborough hospital is proposing a plan either to close all three Scarborough hospital sites including emergency departments or replace them with one or two hospitals. This flies directly in the face of promises made by hospital leadership that no emergency departments would be closed.”

Among our key findings:

- The merger plan will not save money, in fact according to the hospitals’ own data the merger itself will cost \$30 million in one-time costs and \$5.5 million per year thereafter.
- It will take more than a decade to pay off the \$30 million cost of merging, after which there are no clear projected savings.
- The only future savings that would be found in the newly merged hospital would have to come from cuts to health care services at hospital sites in either Scarborough or Ajax, or both.
- Despite well-publicized promises to the communities that vital health services would not be cut and emergency departments would not be closed, in fact, the capital planning submission proposed two options for Scarborough which would close existing hospitals (and emergency departments) in Scarborough.
- Based on the hospitals’ own projections of bed needs, the first proposed option in its capital planning submission would close three hospitals and replace them with one hospital that is smaller (in terms of beds) than the current hospitals and that will have almost 600 too few beds to meet population need 25 years from now.

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### **For more information:**

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