

VGH Emergency Department Long Stay Patients

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The Emergency Department at Victoria General Hospital (VGH) is congested by large numbers of admitted and other 'long stay' (>24 hours) patients who spend considerable time occupying treatment spaces, reducing the capacity of the Emergency Department, and resulting in long waits for patients who are queued in the waiting room. ED overcrowding has multiple negative effects including prolonged pain and suffering of some patients, long patient waits, patient dissatisfaction, and frustrated staff. Preliminary data suggests that a mismatch in demand and capacity for 'Medical Screening' contributes to these long patient stays. Other contributing factors include response to consults (specialists, Allied Health, GPAT), availability of diagnostic testing, and delays between 'actual' bed availability and notification of bed availability.

Data analysis is required to validate the factors contributing to long lengths of stay in the ED prior to admission and understand the relationship between 'Screening Demand' and 'Screening Capacity' for Medical patients.