

# Trillium pledges to cut wait-times by 2010

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Mississauga's Trillium Health Centre says it will improve wait-times by March next year for cancer patients who need urgent surgeries.

A report released recently by the Ontario Health Quality Council (OHQC) says although significant improvements have been made in shrinking wait-times for some surgeries and high-tech imaging, the wait is still too long for cancer patients who do not get dates for surgeries within the medically acceptable two-week time frame.

Patients needing cancer surgery are prioritized into four categories, according to the urgency of their need. This ranges from priority 1, where immediate surgery is required, to priority 4, where the target is 12 weeks. The OHQC report shows that in priority 2, or the "urgent surgery" category, half of patients did not get their surgery, within the medically acceptable two-week timeframe. Some waited twice as long.

Right now, THC's compliance for priority 2 and 3 cancer surgeries is 73 per cent and 83 per cent respectively.

In response to the report, the Trillium Health Centre said it will improve the wait-time compliance for urgent cancer surgeries to 95 per cent by March 2010. "Trillium Health Centre supports the Ontario Health Quality Council's call for better compliance on wait times for urgent cancer surgeries," said Janet Davidson, president and CEO of Trillium Health Centre. "We are committed to reducing wait times and providing timely access to quality care for our patients."

The hospital said it will continue its ongoing efforts to improve coordination of operating room resource and by working with surgeons and surgical teams to complete urgent (priority 2) and medium urgency (priority 3) surgical cases within the prescribed 14 and 28 day targets.