

Hospitals get millions to cut ER wait times, hire nurses



Trillium. Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa announced increased funding for local hospitals at a press conference at Trillium Health Centre's Mississauga site today. *Staff photo by Rob Beintema*

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<http://www.mississauga.com/news/article/28532--hospitals-get-millions-to-cut-er-wait-times-hire-nurses>

Mississauga hospitals are getting close to \$4 million to hire more nurses and reduce lengthy wait times for patients in emergency rooms.

The announcement was made today at Trillium Health Centre's Mississauga site by Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa, who was flanked by Trillium President and CEO Janet Davidson and Credit Valley Hospital President and CEO Michelle DiEmanuele.

"The residents of Mississauga deserve fast, appropriate and high quality care when they go to the ER," Sousa said. "This substantial investment in Mississauga's hospitals will mean further improvements in the quality of care we've come to expect from Trillium and Credit Valley."

Trillium gets \$1.5 million as part of the Ontario government's Pay-For-Results program. The \$55-million program, which gives hospitals with challenged ERs incentives to reduce wait times, is in its second year.

Davidson said the money will go to improving information technology, redesigning parts of the ER and improving the flow of patients by hiring more staff to expedite the process of getting patients into hospital beds.

DiEmanuele said the \$1.7 million going to CVH will add more treatment and assessment teams that can fast-track patient care through the ER and make it more efficient.

"The reality of the significant growth we have experienced over the last decade in Mississauga and the entire GTA is never more evident than in our hospital emergency departments," she said. "It is frustrating for patients, their families and our caregivers when the immediacy of emergency care is often unattainable simply because we are seeing more and more patients."

Peel Region will also be getting more than \$416,000 to hire more nurses at Mississauga's hospitals, as well as the William Osler Health Centre in Brampton.

It wasn't immediately known how many new nurses are coming to each hospital.

In the past year, the government's Pay-For-Results program has seen ER wait times at Trillium and CVH, for patients with minor or uncomplicated conditions, drop 29 per cent.

Earlier this year, the Ontario government set targets of four hours for patients with such conditions and eight hours for patients with more complex conditions in the ER.