

Acute Care Update to Community

JANUARY 11, 2012



Saskatoon Health Region experiencing high patient volumes; temporarily expands acute services to meet community needs

Saskatoon Health Region's three urban hospitals are experiencing an extremely busy period, both in our inpatient wards and emergency departments. The demand for patients requiring an inpatient bed has surpassed the available supply, and Saskatoon Health Region care providers are taking action to meet these needs.

- All three hospitals have additional beds open. St. Paul's is occasionally utilizing day surgery and recovery room space for longer term patients. There have been no surgical postponements due to these capacity issues.
- The greatest pressures are at RUH and St. Paul's Hospital (SPH), particularly for patients with a medical diagnosis.
- This means that patients are occasionally cared for in other places while they wait for an inpatient room to become available. This is not how we wish to care for your loved ones, and our teams are doing everything they can to improve each patient experience. Up to 4 to 5 patients have been cared for in recovery rooms each night, 6 patients are in units that are typically for day patients at St. Paul's, and a small number have been cared for in the hallway on some units until an inpatient bed becomes available (usually less than 24 hours).
- Additional direct care staff are being called in to care for these patients, as well as additional therapies and social work staff.
- There is an increased demand for telemetry and observation beds.
- There is no consistent theme for diagnoses.

The current surge in capacity started immediately following Christmas and has not subsided as it typically would. Saskatoon Health Region employees and care providers have worked together to continue providing care and service to the community, and are to be commended and thanked for their efforts during this extremely busy time.

By the Numbers

Admissions to hospital via Saskatoon Health Region bedline

SPH December 2010: **158** December 2011: **181**
RUH December 2010: **413** December 2011: **503**

Number of days patients in hospital compared Dec 2010 to 2011

SPH **9.6 per cent increase**
RUH **2.4 per cent increase**

Average beds in operation

SPH December 2010: **203** December 2011: **220**
RUH December 2010: **412** December 2011: **423**

Care providers and members of the community are reminded to get their annual influenza vaccination to keep our communities healthy, and ensure that our care providers are well.