



# The real emergency

Every month in Ontario more than half a million people turn to hospital Emergency Departments for urgent medical care. But the system is overwhelmed. Patients are waiting hours to be assessed, and can wait days to get a bed in the right unit. It's hallway medicine at its worst.

This is a direct impact of a growing shortage of nurses and health-care professionals. Emergency departments are working with 50-percent less staff at the same time as occupancy rates are up as much as 400 percent. One ER nurse might be caring for as many as 30 patients. In these situations, nurses simply don't have time to provide the level of attention patients deserve.

This can't go on. The emergency is real, and it must be answered.