Reducing Hospital Overcrowding at the Root Cause

Omar Rabbie and Mackenzie Van Vliet

{rabieo, vanvlm1} @mcmaster.ca

Overcrowding in hospitals are due to

* Emergencies
* Long wait times
* The inability to automate the job of a caretaker
* Miscommunication
* Understaffing
* Not enough funding

When doing research into these points you can see there is already systems in place to attempt to combat overcrowding.

These include but are not limited to

* Wait times for hospitals available online
* Doctors logs in Ontario now being recorded in eHealth Ontario
* Increased funding for hospitals and emergency rooms

It was clear that to come up with a solution to stop overcrowding in hospitals we would have to target the root source, since attempts to target the hospital systems internally – which resulted in huge databases and systems being made and logged – have not helped the overcrowding as much as it should be.

Overcrowding in hospitals, especially in emergency rooms, is due to long wait times because there are too many people than hospitals can provide for. While these hospitals remain full; urgent care centres, walk in clinics and family doctor’s offices remain empty.

Doing research for this project we discovered an amazing deal about all the health centres Ontario has to offer yet the first thing people do when getting minor injuries or sicknesses is go to the hospital. The goal of “Should I Go to the Hospital” is to ask the user eight quick and simple questions to determine where they should go (emergency room, urgent care centre, walk in clinic or family doctor) for proper care.

If you were to web search “Should I Go to the Hospital” or your symptoms of illness, complex, scary and incorrect information comes up and leads you to believe you have to go to the hospital and could die from your minor injury or illness.

The goal of our web app is to show people what Ontario has to offer in terms of health centres, guide them away from hospitals and towards the proper place where they should receive care. Doing this will prevent overcrowding of hospitals and help people with life threatening illnesses and injuries get medical attention as so as can be.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to email us at the given email above.

Sources: Ontario Nurses Association, eHealth Ontario, Ontario Health