Identifying Information	
Name:	**Length of time emergency department patients wait for a hospital bed after a decision to admit**
Calculation:	Time admitted patients wait in the emergency department = (Emergency department last contact time) - (Decision to admit time) Metric: Median and 90th percentile time in hours
Description:	**Decision to admit time:** When an admission order or request is completed in an information system. If the admission order time is unknown, the request for an inpatient bed or admission time from the inpatient record is recorded as the decision to admit time. **Emergency department last contact time:** The last time there is a recorded emergency department entry in a patient's chart.
Data source:	National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)
Assumptions:	Patients who have a recorded decision to admit time were moved to an inpatient bed in the hospital.
Exclusions:	1. Patients are excluded if a decision to admit to the hospital did not occur. This includes patients who: ▪ were discharged directly from the emergency department ▪ were transferred to another facility ▪ left the emergency department against medical advice ▪ died in the context of their emergency department visit 2. Patients are excluded if either time stamp in the calculation is missing. 3. Patients are excluded if their recorded wait between the decision to admit and last contact is greater than 72 hours (3 days) or a recognized data entry error occurred.[9]

[9] E.g., if the patient's wait between the decision to admit and last contact is less than 0 hours.

Limitations:	1. Patients might leave before the last contact time is recorded or stay in the emergency department for a variable amount of time after the emergency department last contact time. These times would not be captured. 2. A small percentage of admitted patients are not moved to an inpatient bed in the hospital (e.g., those who improved and were discharged from the emergency department or those who died before being moved to an inpatient bed).

Alberta Health Services, Analytics. "Alberta Emergency Department (Urban) Operational & Performance Dashboard." (2024) [Dashboard showing median and 90th percentile results for the length of time between a decision to admit and when the patient leaves the emergency department, by facility, month, and quarter]. *AHS Tableau Reporting Platform.* Retrieved from https://tableau.ahs.ca

*For more information regarding definitions, exclusions, etc., please visit the NACRS Abstracting Manual, 2023-2024 Edition.[10]

[10] Canadian Institute for Health Information. NACRS Abstracting Manual, 2023-2024 Edition. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2024.