IDENTIFYING INFORMATION	
Name:	**Patient reason for emergency department visit**
Survey question(s):	Why did you choose to go to the emergency department, instead of somewhere else such as a doctor's office? FILL-IN ALL THAT APPLY ○ The emergency department was the only choice available at the time. ○ The emergency department was the most convenient place to go. ○ I (we) thought the emergency department was the best place for my medical problem. ○ I was told to go to the emergency department rather than somewhere else. ○ Other: _____
Calculation:	Results are displayed separately for those who report each of the four primary response options displayed in the survey question above: $\left(\frac{\text{Number of respondents that report only choice}}{\text{Total number of respondents during the reporting period}^{23}}\right) \times 100$ $\left(\frac{\text{Number of respondents that report convenience}}{\text{Total number of respondents during the reporting period}}\right) \times 100$ $\left(\frac{\text{Number of respondents that report it was the best place}}{\text{Total number of respondents during the reporting period}}\right) \times 100$ $\left(\frac{\text{Number of respondents that report they were told to go}}{\text{Total number of respondents during the reporting period}}\right) \times 100$
Description:	Reported separately, percentage of patients who: ▪ Believed the emergency department was the only choice available at the time. ▪ Thought the emergency department was the most convenient place to go. ▪ Thought the emergency department was the best place for their medical problem. ▪ Were told to go to the emergency department rather than somewhere else.
Data source:	Health Quality Alberta Emergency Department Patient Experience of Care (EDPEC) Survey

[23] This question was asked of all respondents; therefore, the denominator consists of all patients with valid responses to this question (indicated at least one response category).

Assumptions:	These are self-reported reasons for choosing the emergency department and are not meant to imply appropriateness or inappropriateness of the choice.
Exclusions:	1. General exclusion criteria for Health Quality Alberta's EDPEC Survey include the following: ▪ Children aged 0 to 15 for the 14 large urban and regional adult emergency department sites. ▪ Patients older than 12 for the two Children's Hospital emergency department sites. ▪ Patients who left the emergency department before being seen or treated. ▪ Patients who died in the context of their emergency department or inpatient stay. ▪ Patients without contact information (phone number). ▪ Privacy-sensitive cases (e.g., domestic abuse, attempted suicide, etc.) 2. Patients in need of resuscitation who presented to the emergency department (CTAS 1) are excluded, since it is assumed they do not have the choice to go somewhere other than the emergency department. 3. Patients who reported 'Other' are excluded from the report, since the number of respondents who answered in this fashion are too small to ensure the reliability and validity of the data, as well as to ensure the confidentiality of respondents.
Limitations:	1. Respondents are given the option to choose as many response options they feel are appropriate to describe the reasons they chose to go to the emergency department. As a result, when comparing results for a specific month or quarter, the sum of the percentages for each response option will be larger than 100%. 2. Sampling for Health Quality Alberta's EDPEC Survey purposely excludes patients in specific age groups at specific sites (see Exclusions section). As a result, data collected for these sites does not represent the experiences of all patients treated at these emergency department sites, but does represent the majority. 3. Sample sizes per site, per month have been determined to reflect the principles of statistical process control (SPC) methods, and allows for the monitoring of patient experience over time.[24] The number of patients surveyed per site per month/quarter are not statistically representative of the population treated at each site for that given time period; the sample is statistically representative at the site-level every 6 months[25] – caution is urged when interpreting specific data points.

[24] See Appendix A for an explanation of the sample size determination and the principles of SPC methods.
[25] More information about the statistical representativeness calculation (with finite population correction) can be found at: http://www.sut.ac.th/im/data/read6.pdf.