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EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN FOR ONTARIO SUPPORTING HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCE INITIATIVES

\$13.2 million is being invested to stabilize emergency department (ED) coverage in Ontario hospitals by retaining emergency department doctors and recruiting more physicians to work in emergency departments, and launching pilot projects to add physician assistants and nurse practitioners to the emergency department team.

Retention, Recruitment and Training Package for Emergency Department Physicians

\$11.2 million will fund an agreement between the Ontario Medical Association and the ministry. The agreement will ensure stable physician coverage and includes the following key elements:

- Premiums to provide 24/7 ED coverage, including seasonal variations and holiday periods
- New recruitment program for EDs
- A new provincial program to provide local coverage in EDs
- New education programs to help family physicians, nurses and others upgrade their skills to work in the ED
- Allow and support physicians in-training with licenses to work in EDs.

Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in Emergency Rooms

\$2 million to launch pilot projects in six communities as part of the *HealthForceOntario* strategy, where physician assistants and nurse practitioners will be deployed to work in EDs.

The six pilot locations will be established at: Brockville General Hospital, Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Guelph General Hospital, Quinte Health Care – Trenton Site, Sault Area Hospital and Timmins and District Hospital.

A physician assistant is an innovative new health care professional role that assists supervising physicians to deliver medical services, such as conducting patient interviews, histories, physical examinations; performing selected diagnostic and therapeutic interventions; ordering and interpreting patient laboratory and radiological results; and counselling patients on preventative health care.

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