

Background

Several hospitals in Ontario are reporting difficulty fully staffing their Emergency Departments (ED). The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has developed a number of programs and tools to assist hospitals in addressing ED management and staffing challenges. In an extension of these efforts, the MOHLTC is now focusing on programs and processes that will assist hospitals in approaching ED staffing in a more comprehensive, strategic and sustainable manner.

This guide is meant to be a practical tool that provides quick access to information about available programs and incentives to assist with ED staffing challenges at both ED Alternative Funding Arrangement (EDAFA) and Fee For Service (FFS) hospitals. Many of the programs have been specifically designed to assist EDs during peak summer months.

This is the initial version of the guide. It will be updated and expanded periodically.

Appreciation is extended to those who participated in the development of this document (Appendix B).

Target Audience

This document has been developed to support ED Chiefs/Chiefs of Staff, Physician groups (ED/primary care groups), hospital administrators / delegates, Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) ED leads and LHIN representatives.

How to Use This Document

- **Strategies and Tips** – Starting on page 5, a number of slides outline leading practices, strategies and tips used by Ontario hospital EDs to successfully overcome ED staffing challenges. For each strategy, we provide a description of the strategy, an overview of benefits and challenges of using it, and recommendations on how to implement it.
- **ED Support Programs** – Starting on page 17, these slides outline the programs that provide specific funding to meet an array of staffing situations or challenges. For each program we provide a description, pre-requisites, the process for applying for the funding, and the contact information.