



Saskatchewan  
**Health Authority**

# Regina Capacity Pressure Action Plan

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Saskatchewan Health Authority

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# Regina Capacity Pressure Action Plan

## Overview

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has been working closely with the Ministry of Health to take concrete actions to improve hospital capacity throughout the province. This work has been undertaken in acknowledgment that current hospital capacity pressures create a difficult environment for our patients who are seeking care in our Emergency Departments, and for staff, physicians and paramedics who have continued to provide excellent care.

Tertiary acute care facilities in Regina are facing capacity pressures as seasonal respiratory viruses and a rise of patients presenting with increasingly complex needs challenge current available capacity. Work underway in Saskatoon as part of the Saskatoon Capacity Pressure Action Plan (SCPAP) has contributed to several immediate improvements to hospital capacity pressures, while medium and long-term planning continues to make lasting improvements to the system.

Building on the initial success of the SCPAP, the SHA is introducing a similar approach to addressing capacity pressures in Regina's tertiary hospitals through the implementation of the Regina Capacity Pressure Action Plan (RCPAP). The RCPAP has been designed by the SHA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to address pressures in Regina while introducing several other mid- to long-term measures to meet current and future needs.

As Saskatchewan's provincial health authority, the SHA remains committed to addressing capacity challenges in urban, rural and remote settings throughout the province. Ongoing work to improve capacity pressures in Regina and Saskatoon will have a provincial benefit, increasing provincial capacity provided by our major tertiary facilities.

## Highlights

- Addressing hospital capacity pressures in Regina is an ongoing priority for the SHA and Ministry of Health.
- The SHA is taking immediate action to address current pressures, including the addition of beds, staff supports and enhancing community care.
- Additional measures, including the opening of Regina's Urgent Care Centre in 2024, will address capacity challenges in Regina on a longer-term basis.

## Previous Actions

As Southern Saskatchewan's primary tertiary centre, addressing capacity pressures in Regina is an ongoing priority for the SHA and Ministry of Health, with several recent investments and operational initiatives targeted to enhance system capacity.

Significant recent actions made to increase hospital capacity in Regina include:

- the addition of 28 medicine beds at the Pasqua Hospital;
- the addition of Emergency Room staff in 2023 including Registered Nurses, physicians, security personnel and porters;
- the addition of four General Internal Medicine Admitting physician full-time equivalents (FTEs);
- addition of six high acuity beds at Regina General Hospital acting as step-down intensive care unit to ensure capacity for those patients requiring Critical Care services.
- addition of two 24/7 staffed ambulances in the community in 2023;
- the addition of six hospice beds at Wascana Rehab Centre in 2023;
- an announced additional community Policy and Crisis Team (PACT) in Regina;
- the previously announced Health Human Resources Action Plan has introduced a number of immediate and long-term measures to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care providers to stabilize and grow the provincial health workforce; and
- establishing a Community Based Long Term Care (LTC) program securing 100 LTC beds since 2020.

## Actions being implemented within 90 days

In recognition that more action has been necessary to address immediate capacity pressures in Regina, SHA is taking several additional concrete measures over the next 90-day period to provide immediate support to the hardworking health professionals providing tremendous patient care under difficult circumstances. This includes:

- additional staffing is underway for acute care discharge planners to work with patient and families to coordinate the discharges from acute care to appropriate care settings;
- opening new Supportive Housing spaces to support individuals with chronic homelessness as part of the Government of Saskatchewan's Provincial Approach to Homelessness;
- addition of 20 transitional beds to enable patient discharge and care transitions from hospital to appropriate care settings;
- additional palliative home care resources to prevent Emergency Department presentations, support decreased inpatient admissions and decreased length of stay;
- opening four additional high acuity beds at Regina General Hospital;
- expanding the number of beds within the community-based Long-Term Care program;
- increasing adherence to existing overcapacity protocols to transition patients out of the Emergency Department to appropriate care environments and appropriate receiving facilities to reduce pressures on tertiary sites;
- increase community chronic disease supports including home health monitoring services to better manage care in the community and avoid unnecessary Emergency Department presentations; and
- additional acute care staff to work with patients admitted with a fracture to reduce the risk of a re-fracture and subsequent readmissions to acute care.

## Actions to be implemented in the next three to nine months

While short and medium term actions being implemented are anticipated to provide significant immediate relief in Regina, a number of additional actions will be undertaken by the SHA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to implement changes that will address capacity pressures in Regina on a longer-term basis. These longer-term changes will occur over the next three to nine months and include:

- opening of the Regina Urgent Care Center designed to function as an alternative to Emergency Department for non-life threatening illnesses, injuries and mental health support in the summer of 2024;
- opening of new Addictions Beds in Spring of 2024 as part of the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to add new addictions treatment spaces;
- procuring space for additional LTC beds in the Regina Area in partnership with the Ministry of Health;
- in collaboration with the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement, advancing the procurement for 240 Specialized Long Term Care beds; and
- completion of an inpatient bed needs assessment for Regina facilities. This will determine the appropriate number and mix of acute and long-term care beds required to meet the current and projected needs of the community.

## Conclusion

The actions articulated within the RCPAP are anticipated to provide immediate relief to capacity challenges within Regina while the SHA and Ministry of Health collaborate on longer-term solutions.

Throughout implementation of the RCPAP, the SHA commits to continued engagement with our front-line staff to hear their ideas, understand their needs and ensure we are working collaboratively to provide the best possible care to our patients. SHA senior leadership will continue to visit front line care areas to ensure we can remove barriers and challenges as they occur and adapt the plan to ensure needs are well known and responded to.

As Saskatchewan's provincial health authority, the SHA remains committed to addressing capacity challenges in urban, rural and remote settings throughout the province. Ongoing work to improve capacity pressures in Regina and Saskatoon will have a provincial benefit, increasing provincial capacity provided by our major tertiary facilities.

