AHS Reforms
Update to Albertans

Jason Copping, Minister of Health
Nov. 17, 2022
The Need for Change
Current Challenges

- Wait times for ambulances are too long
- Multi-hour wait times in emergency rooms
- Not enough surgeries happening within medically-acceptable wait times
AHS Official Administrator
Why an official administrator?

• Full-time official administrator provides sharper focus on the necessary immediate changes needed vs. a part-time board
• Temporary solution to make immediate change
• AHS board will be restored at the appropriate time
Dr. John Cowell

Dr. Cowell has served previously as:

- CEO for the Health Quality Council of Alberta
- President and CEO of the WCB of Alberta
- Clinical professor at the U of C for over 30 years
- Official Administrator for AHS
Dr. Cowell’s Role

• Works directly with interim AHS CEO to expedite improvements and reforms
• Provides leadership to improve productivity and health care outcomes
• Reports directly to the Minister of Health and Premier
Urgent Reforms
Four Goals

- Improve EMS response times
- Decrease ER wait times
- Reduce surgery wait times
- Develop long-term reforms
What success looks like

- Faster flow through the system to improve overall patient care
- Appropriate care can be inpatient care, home care, long-term care, etc. based on patient need
Improve EMS response times
Improve EMS response times

- Fast track ambulance transfers – to hospital or alternate level of care
- Use other modes of transportation for non-emergency inter-facility transfers
- Empower EMS dispatch to step-down calls from 911
- Empower paramedics triage and determine patient need to be transferred to ER by ambulance
Improve EMS response times

Success indicators:

- Reduced time from an emergency call to ambulance arrival
- Reduced patient offload time at ER
- Number of calls appropriately ‘stepped-down’ from 911 to Health Link
- Reduced number of less urgent calls handled by ambulance
Decrease Emergency Room wait times
Decrease Emergency Room wait times

- Bring in additional health professionals to ease the pressure
- Improve on-site patient care and management
- Shorten the transfer time for patients who need care
- Install metrics to measure outcomes to ensure changes are successful
Decrease Emergency Room wait times

We will know if adjustments made are successful if the time from entering the ER to receiving the appropriate level of care required for that patient is reduced.
Reduce wait times for surgeries
Reduce wait times for surgeries

• Significantly increase surgeries at underutilized hospitals, mainly in rural areas
• Continue to leverage publicly funded surgeries at chartered surgical facilities
Reduce wait times for surgeries

Improvements will be measured by:

• Increased utilization rate of operating rooms at hospitals
• More surgeries occurring within clinically acceptable wait times
• Reduced surgery wait times across the province
Develop long-term reforms
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- Restore decision making to the local level and local health professionals
- Incentivize regional innovation to provide more medical services
- Create a healthcare system that attracts more health care professionals to Alberta
Develop long-term reforms

By implementing these longer-term actions, we will:

• Reduce health service wait times
• Increase access to health care providers for all Albertans