

Rural ambulance patients waiting less



“Patients don’t wait as long for diagnostics and for the consultant to diagnose them and make a plan. In the past, some patients would wait as long as 10 hours to see a physician.”

Odile Longpre
ER charge nurse

Rural patients travelling by ambulance to Regina General to meet with a consulting physician now spend at least 50% less time waiting in Emergency (from 8 hours to under 4) before learning whether they will be admitted to hospital. RQ Bed Line now coordinates a call amongst the home practitioner, the consulting *Medicine physician and the charge nurse before the patient’s ambulance travel is arranged. They establish the patient arrival time and required diagnostics. This pre-planning not only results in less waiting for patients but also paramedics, who must wait with patients until an admission decision is made. Changes will be expanded to include Pasqua Hospital and all consulting specialists shortly.

*Medicine physicians include gastroenterologists, nephrologists, neurologists, general internal medicine specialists, hospitalists, and others.