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## **Non-Acute Care Third Leading Cause for Hospital Bed Use, Occupying 264 Beds**

***Many Alternate Level of Care patients remain in hospital while waiting for beds in personal care homes***

A study by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) on hospital use in Manitoba found that patients designated as Alternate Level of Care (ALC) accounted for only 3.4% of inpatient admissions, but used 16.6% of all the days of hospital care provided. Patients designated as ALC are those who do not require acute care, but cannot be discharged until the alternative they need becomes available. Following Medical and Surgical cases, ALC patients represented the third leading cause for hospital days used, the majority of which were by patients awaiting placement in Personal Care Homes (PCHs).

Researchers analyzed data about inpatients (patients who stayed overnight) for all 71 Manitoba hospitals over a 2 year period, 2009/10 and 2010/11. The results showed that 16.7% of hospital days were used by ALC patients; following Medical (38.6%) and Surgical (21.9%) cases. Patients awaiting placement in a PCH were the main driver of ALC use: they accounted for 49% of all ALC cases, and 86% of all ALC days in hospital.

“This is a concern for two major reasons: For patients, it means that they are not in the most appropriate place for the type of care they need. For hospitals, it means that beds may not be available, causing back-ups in the system such as longer waits for elective procedures or admissions from the emergency department,” says Dr. Randy Fransoo, Senior Research Scientist with MCHP and lead author of this report.

Approximately 63% of these hospital days were used after the need for placement in a PCH was confirmed and approved; meaning the majority of these days of hospital care could have been avoided if beds in PCHs were available.

Researchers estimated that if we were able to transfer all hospital patients awaiting placement in PCHs, this would free up 264 acute care beds - 87 in Winnipeg and 177 elsewhere.

“The beds in Winnipeg are likely the higher priority, since Winnipeg hospitals operate at a very high occupancy,” says Fransoo. “This is partly because they provide services to Manitobans from all regions.”

The full report, *Who Is in Our Hospitals...and Why?* can be downloaded from the MCHP website at: [umanitoba.ca/medicine/units/mchp](http://umanitoba.ca/medicine/units/mchp)

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The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) is a research unit in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. Research scientists and their collaborators at MCHP study health services, population and public health, and the social determinants of health using data from the entire population of Manitoba.