

Emergency Department Accountability Act

CHAPTER 4 OF THE ACTS OF 2009

as amended by

2014, c. 32, ss. 110-114



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CHAPTER 4 OF THE ACTS OF 2009
amended 2014, c. 32, ss. 110-114

**An Act to Provide Accountability
Respecting Hospital Emergency Departments**

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WHEREAS keeping hospital emergency departments open to provide safe, quality care and reducing wait times in health care is a Government of Nova Scotia responsibility;

AND WHEREAS health authorities are responsible for effective management strategies throughout the health and hospital system, which have an impact on emergency department overcrowding and wait times, including appropriate staffing, training, consistency of standards and planning to ensure patient access to safe and timely care across Nova Scotia:

Preamble *amended 2014, c. 32, s. 110.*

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Emergency Department Accountability Act*. 2009, c. 4, s. 1.

Purpose of Act

2 The purpose of this Act is to provide public accountability to communities respecting emergency departments. 2009, c. 4, s. 2.

Interpretation

3 In this Act,

(a) “closure” of a particular emergency department means a closure that results in there being no emergency department services available to the public from that emergency department;

(b) *repealed 2014, c. 32, s. 111.*

(c) “emergency department” means an emergency department operated by a health authority;

(ca) “health authority” has the same meaning as in the *Health Authorities Act*;

(d) “Minister” means the Minister of Health. 2009, c. 4, s. 3; 2014, c. 32, s. 111.

District health authority to consult on ongoing pattern of closure

4 (1) Where an emergency department of a health authority has experienced an ongoing pattern of closure of the emergency department in the last fiscal year, the health authority shall consult with the community served by the emergency department as part of the consultations conducted in accordance with its next public engagement plan as defined by the *Health Authorities Act*.

(2) The consultation must include consideration of proposed community solutions to keep open or re-open the emergency department or to provide alternative health services. 2009, c. 4, s. 4; 2014, c. 32, s. 112.

District health authority to report to Minister

5 (1) A health authority shall report, as soon as it is aware, of a potential closure and the reason for such closure to the Minister.

(2) A health authority shall report to the Minister within a reasonable period of time on all consultations pursuant to this Act and the actions taken or to be taken by the health authority as a result of the consultations. 2009, c. 4, s. 5; 2014, c. 32, s. 113.

Minister to report annually to House of Assembly

6 The Minister shall table annually a report in the House of Assembly that provides

(a) the dates that all emergency rooms in the Province were closed and the reason for the closures by individual hospital within each health authority;

(b) the nature and outcome of all consultations reported pursuant to subsection 5(2); and

(c) the actions taken or to be taken by a health authority as a result of the consultations reported pursuant to subsection 5(2). 2009, c. 4, s. 6; 2014, c. 32, s. 114.

Effective date

7 This Act comes into force on such day as the Governor in Council orders and declares by proclamation. 2009, c. 4, s. 7.

Proclaimed - December 21, 2009
In force - January 1, 2010
