Regional Emergency Care Patient Experience Survey Results 2021-2022



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> In collaboration with: Rural Health Patient Services

Background

Survey Instrument

The validated emergency and fast track department experience survey that was administered throughout the Western Health region was an approved Accreditation Canada Client Experience Survey based on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). The Survey tool was modified to meet the needs of Western Health in collaboration with the Emergency Department Quality Improvement Team (see Appendix A). Questions were modified to fit with current language and terminology for services and providers, as well as to ask about experience with additional services and providers.

Method

The survey was available to complete electronically through Get Feedback or by paper from September 20 to December 16, 2021. Staff promoted the survey to all patients who visited an emergency and/or fast track department across all sites in the region by providing an information letter and/or a survey promotion wallet card. The letter contained information about the survey as well as instructions on how to complete the survey electronically. Patients were also given the option to complete a paper version of the survey if they preferred. Based on low survey response rates at Calder Health Centre, the survey collection window was expanded and two additional surveys were collected on February 9th, 2022.

Participants

The survey was promoted to all patients who visited an emergency and/or fast track department among Western Health's facilities. This includes Calder Health Centre (CHC) in Burgeo, Dr. Charles LeGrow Health Centre (LHC) in Port aux Basques, Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital (STRH) in Stephenville, Western Memorial Regional Hospital (WMRH) in Corner Brook, Bonne Bay Health Centre (BBHC) in Norris Point, and Rufus Guinchard Health Centre (RGHC) in Port Saunders.

Sample

Surveys were completed by 250 participants regionally. Based on patient volume regionally, this sample size provides a confidence level of 90% that the real values are within $\pm 5.17\%$ of the surveyed values.

Privacy, Confidentiality, Data Security

Privacy and confidentiality were achieved as the patients voluntarily and anonymously completed the survey online. Patients who completed the survey on paper did so with no identifying information on the envelope or survey to identify the individual. Any information that could potentially identify the patients was excluded. All downloaded data was stored on a password protected computer used by Planning and Performance staff.

Data Analysis

Survey data was entered directly into Get Feedback by the respondent or transcribed from paper copies by the survey administrators. Reports were developed and analyzed in this survey platform. Descriptive statistics were calculated on regional data to obtain a general perspective of patient experiences with emergency and fast track department services at Western Health. Summary reports were also created for each site to assist in quality improvement initiatives and planning at a site level. The following report provides a summary of survey results for all sites within the region.

Results

Demographics

A total of 250 surveys were completed. Respondents were asked to indicate which health facility they visited for emergency services and the majority of respondents reported they visited WMRH (52%). The number of respondents from each health facility is indicated in Table 1.

Hospital	Percent (%)	Frequency
Western Memorial Regional Hospital	52	130
Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital	28	69
Rufus Guinchard Health Centre	5	13
Bonne Bay Health Centre	6	16
Calder Health Centre	1	3
Dr. Charles LeGrow Health Centre	8	19
Site not identified	n/a	0
Total	100	250

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage of Respondents by Site

To gain a more thorough understanding of the demographics and health status of the survey respondents, they were asked to report their age group, highest grade or level of school completed, race or ethnicity, gender identity, and overall health. The respondents were closely distributed across age groups from 25-75, with smaller percentage of respondents age 16-24 and age 75 and over (see Figure 1). Of the respondents, the majority (58%) had a college degree or higher education (see Figure 2). The majority of respondents (69%) identified as white/Caucasian, while 28% identified as Aboriginal/Indigenous, and 2% identified as another cultural/racial background. When asked to identify which best describes their gender, the majority identified as female (62%), while 36% identified as male and 1% identified as another gender. When asked to rate their overall health, the majority provided a positive rating, with 51% reporting excellent or very good (see Figure 3).

16-24	24	10%
25-34	34	14%
35-44	41	17%
45-54	37	15%
55-64	45	18%
65-74	36	15%
75-84	21	9%
85+	7	3%

Figure 1. Frequency and Percentage of Respondents by Age Group

Figure 2. Frequency and Percentage of Respondents by Education Level

8th grade or less	18	7%
Some high school, but did not graduate	25	10%
High school graduate or GED	58	24%
College or other non-university certificate or diploma	88	36%
Undergraduate degree or some university	28	12%
Post-graduate degree or professional designation	25	10 %

Figure 3. Frequency and Percentage of Respondents by Overall Health Rating

Excellent	47	19%
Very good	77	32%
Good	77	32%
Fair	31	13%
Poor	12	5%

Utilization

Twenty five percent of survey respondents who visited the emergency department were seen in Fast Track. Participants were asked what day of the week they visited the emergency department and the following was reported: Sunday (8%), Monday (16%), Tuesday (16%), Wednesday (19%), Thursday (17%), Friday (16%), and Saturday (7%). Respondents also indicated what time of day they visited the emergency. Of the respondents, 46% visited between 8:00am and 12:00pm, 27% between 12:00pm and 4:00pm, 22% between 4:00pm and 12:00am, and 6% between 12:00am and 8:00am.

Reasons for Attending

Respondents were asked to indicate their reason(s) for choosing to go to the emergency or fast track department (see Table 2), as well as how they would describe the health problem that resulted in their visit (see Figure 4). The most common reason for attending was I thought Emergency/Fast Track was the best place for my medical problem (37%) and the majority of respondents identified their health problem as somewhat urgent, needed to be seen on the same day (54%).

Reason	Percent (%)	Frequency
I thought Emergency/Fast Track was the best place for my medical problem	37	93
I was told to go to Emergency/Fast Track rather than somewhere else	16	41
Emergency/Fast Track was the only choice available at the time	35	86
Emergency/Fast Track was the most convenient place to go	8	20
I do not have a primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)	15	37
Wait time for my primary care provider was too long	16	40
I wanted to be seen in-person instead of a virtual visit	9	22

Table 2. Reason for Attending Emergency Department

Figure 4. Description of Health Problem

Life threatening	4	2 %
Possibly life threatening	21	9%
Urgent, risk of permanent damage	49	20%
Somewhat urgent, needed to be seen on the same day	134	54%
Not urgent, but I wanted to be seen on the same day	39	16%

Nursing Care

Respondents were asked about nursing care during their emergency visit (see Table 6). Most respondents reported that nurses always or usually treated them with courtesy and respect (83%), listened carefully to them (81%), and explained things in a way they could understand (84%).

Question	Never % (N)	Sometimes % (N)	Usually % (N)	Always % (N)
How often did the nurse(s) treat you with courtesy and respect?	3% (8)	14% (33)	14% (34)	69% (169)
How often did the nurse(s) listen carefully to you?	5% (12)	14% (35)	12% (28)	69% (167)
How often did the nurse(s explain things in a way you could understand?	5% (11)	11% (27)	16% (39)	68% (165)

Table 3. Nursing Care

Care from Doctors and Nurse Practitioners

Patients were also asked about the care they received from doctors and nurse practitioners (see Table 4). Consistent with the feedback about nurses, most patients reported that doctors usually or always treated them with courtesy and respect (86%), listened carefully to them (83%), and explained things in a way they could understand (83%). When asked how often they felt involved in decisions about their own care and treatment, 74% reported always or usually.

Table 4. Care from Doctors

Question	Never % (N)	Sometimes % (N)	Usually % (N)	Always % (N)
How often did the doctor/nurse practitioner treat you with courtesy and respect?	6% (14)	8% (20)	17% (41)	69% (170)
How often did the doctor/nurse practitioner listen carefully to you?	6% (14)	11% (27)	18% (44)	65% (159)
How often did the doctor/nurse practitioner explain things in a way you could understand?	5% (11)	12% (29)	18% (45)	65% (159)
How often did you feel involved in decisions about your care and treatment?	12% (29)	13% (33)	18% (45)	56% (138)

A prevalent theme expressed in the survey comments was regarding positive communication and interpersonal dynamics with the health care team. Respondents used terms such as friendly, helpful, attentive, informative, compassionate, respectful, kind, courteous, and professional to describe their healthcare providers. Conversely, a smaller group of respondents provided comments regarding negative interpersonal dynamics. Respondents who had negative experiences described staff behaviour as rude, dismissive, uncaring, and lacking empathy.

Similarly, there were a balance of negative and positive comments about the care provided to respondents. Negative themes centred on a sense that the respondent's own and/or others needs were not attended to in an appropriate amount of time for the severity of their condition, as well as concern that physical needs, such as bleeding and soiled clothing, were ignored while respondents felt they could have been supported by other health care staff prior to seeing the primary care provider. Positive themes included general overall satisfaction and experiences of high quality care. Respondents used terms such as knowledgeable, thorough, excellent, and amazing to describe their health care providers.

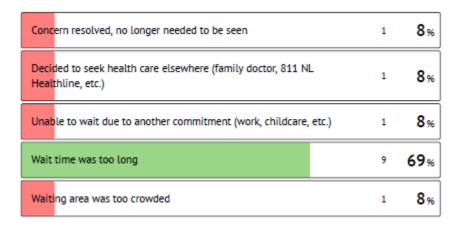
Waiting for Care

Patients were asked if they were told how long they would have to wait to be examined. Of the respondents, 18% reported that they did not have a wait time, 12% reported they were told but the wait was shorter, 8% reported they were told and the wait was as long as they were told, 13% reported they were told but the wait was longer, and 48% reported they were not told.

When patients were asked if the hospital staff checked on them while they waited, 21% reported yes, 6% reported yes but would have liked to been checked on more often, 36% reported no but they did not mind, and 38% reported no but they would have liked staff to

check on them. Patients were also asked whether they considered leaving before they were seen and 51% reported no, 43% reported yes – considered it but stayed, and 7% reported yes – I did leave. Respondents who reported leaving were asked to indicate the main factor in their decision to leave (see Figure 5). The most common factor reported was that they wait time was too long (69%).

Figure 5. Main Factor in Decision to Leave



A common theme in the survey comments was that the wait time for service was too long. Some respondents included comments that the department was understaffed and others commented that they understood that there were higher priorities; however, as mentioned above, some felt that their own and/or others needs were not attended to in an appropriate amount of time for the severity of their condition. Most did not provide specifics on their wait time. For those who did provide wait times, these ranged from two and a half to ten hours.

Another common theme was that respondents were left without any follow-up or information while waiting. As a way to minimize congestion and support physical distancing in the waiting areas, one respondent provided the suggestion to allow people who are able to do so to wait in their cars and call them into the department when it is their turn.

Hospital Environment

Patients were asked about the hospital environment including cleanliness and privacy. The majority of respondents reported that the rooms were kept clean (89%) and that their bathroom was kept clean (78%). Of the respondents, the majority also indicated that they always or usually had enough privacy (73%), while 12% reported sometimes and 16% reported never.

While the overall ratings for cleanliness were positive, there was a common theme in the survey regarding dissatisfaction with the facility. Comments included several concerns regarding cleanliness, as well as individual comments about the facility being in poor condition, rooms being uncomfortable, and signage being confusing.

Patient Experience with Pain

Respondents were asked if during their hospital visit they needed medication for pain and 38% reported yes. The respondents who indicated that they needed medication for pain were asked to indicate how well their pain was well controlled and how often staff did everything they could to help with pain (see Table 5). The majority reported that their pain was controlled or somewhat controlled (65%) and 73% reported that staff did or somewhat did everything they could did everything they could to help with pain.

Question	Yes % (N)	Somewhat % (N)	No % (N)
Was your pain well controlled?	35% (32)	30% (28)	35% (32)
Did the hospital staff do everything they could to help you with your pain?	49% (45)	24% (22)	27% (25)

Table 5. Patient Experience with Pain

Patients were also asked if they were given any medication that they had not taken before and 25% reported yes. The respondents who indicated they were given medication they had not taken before were asked to report if they were told what the medication was for and if staff described possible side effects in a way they could understand (see Table 6). Almost everyone (97%) reported that they were told what the medication was for and 77% reported that staff did describe or somewhat described possible side effects of the medication in a way they could understand.

Table 6. Patient Experience with Medication

Question	Yes % (N)	Somewhat % (N)	No % (N)
Did hospital staff tell you what the medicine was for?	97% (60)	n/a	3% (2)
Did hospital staff describe possible side effects in a way you could understand?	44% (27)	33% (20)	23% (14)

Discharge

Respondents were asked where they went after they left the hospital or health centre and 92% reported their own home, 4% reported another health facility, and 5% reported someone else's home. Respondents were also asked whether hospital staff spoke with them about whether they would have the help they needed when discharged from the hospital or health centre. The majority of respondents (63%) reported that they had not talked with hospital staff about whether they had the help needed when they left the hospital, while 37% reported yes. Respondents were also asked if they were given information about what symptoms or health problems to look out for after they left the hospital. The majority (64%) reported that they were told the information, 3% were given the information in writing, and 33% reported no. When asked whether they received all the information they needed about their condition and treatment, the majority (52%) reported yes, 32% reported somewhat, and 16% reported no.

Overall Hospital Experience

Respondents were asked to rank how they felt they were helped by their emergency or fast track visit on a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being not helped at all and 10 being helped completely. On average, patients ranked the level of help at 6.98. Respondents were asked to rank their overall experience of care during this visit on a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being the worst possible and 10 being the best possible. On average, patients ranked their overall care at 6.69. Respondents were asked to rank the hospital or health centre they visited on a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being the worst possible and 10 being the worst possible and 10 being the worst possible and 10 being the set possible. On average, patients ranked their hospital or health centre they visited on a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being the worst possible and 10 being the best possible. On average, patients ranked their hospital at 6.53. Respondents were also asked whether they would recommend the hospital or health centre to friends and family and 43% reported definitely yes, 30% reported probably yes, 15% reported probably no, and 13% reported definitely no.

Opportunities for Improvement

Overall results indicate that Western Health's emergency services have strengths including the care received from nurses and doctors and the cleanliness of patient rooms.

Opportunities for improvement were identified for those questions that had less than 80% of respondents reporting a positive response (i.e., always and usually combined or yes). Regionally, opportunities for improvement include:

- Explore opportunities to enhance patients' involvement in decisions about their care and treatment;
- Explore opportunities to enhance communication with patients about approximate wait times and reasons for waiting;
- Explore opportunities to ensure bathroom cleanliness;
- Explore opportunities to enhance patients' privacy;
- Enhance patient pain control and explore opportunities to enhance support for patients experiencing pain;
- Enhance communication with patients regarding the possible side effects of new medications;
- Enhance communication with patients about whether they have the help they need when they are discharged; and
- Provide information about symptoms or health problems patients should look for when they are discharged.

Appendix A

Emergency / Fast Track Department

Patient Experience Survey

Emergency/Fast Track Department Patient Experience Survey

As a client who has recently received service at Western Health in the Emergency and/or Fast Track Department we would like your feedback to help improve your hospital experience. Please answer all the questions based on your most recent or current visit. Please note, only clients who are 16 years or older should complete this questionnaire. If any question is not applicable for your experience, please skip the question without providing a response. If you prefer to complete the survey electronically, it is available here: www.westernhealth.nl.ca/survey

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey is voluntary and will not affect your level of care. All information gathered from this survey will be treated confidentially and will be reported collectively. The results will be shared anonymously with health care providers and leadership to support quality improvement. Western Health will also post a summary of the information from all patients who respond on our website at www.westernhealth.nl.ca. This report will be available in January 2022.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Tracey Wells-Stratton, Regional Manager - Research and Evaluation at (709)784-6801 or traceywells@westernhealth.nl.ca.

Instructions: Please SKIP any question that is not applicable for your experience or if you do not remember the details.

1. Where did you visit the Emergency/Fast Track Department?

Mark only one oval.

- Western Memorial Regional Hospital (Corner Brook)
- Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital (Stephenville)
- Bonne Bay Health Centre (Norris Point)
- Calder Health Care Centre (Burgeo)
- Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre (Port aux Basques)
- Rufus Guinchard Health Centre (Port Saunders)
- In which area did you receive your care?

Mark only one oval.

- Emergency Department (ALL sites)
- Fast Track (STEPHENVILLE & CORNER BROOK sites only)

Page 1 of 11

3. What day did you visit the Emergency/Fast Track Department?

Mark only one oval.

- Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
- 4. Approximately what time did you arrive at the Emergency/Fast Track Department?

Mark only one oval.

- 8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. (noon)
- 12:00 p.m. (noon) 4:00 p.m.
- 4:00 p.m. 12:00 a.m. (midnight)
- 12:00 a.m. (midnight) 8:00 a.m.

5. Why did you choose to go to the Emergency/Fast Track Department?

Check all that apply.

- I thought Emergency/Fast Track was the best place for my medical problem
- I was told to go to Emergency/Fast Track rather than somewhere else
- Emergency/Fast Track was the only choice available at the time
- Emergency/Fast Track was the most convenient place to go
- I do not have a primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)
- Wait time for my primary care provider was too long
- I wanted to be seen in-person instead of a virtual visit

Page 2 of 11

6. How would you describe the health problem that resulted in your Emergency/Fast Track Department visit?

Mark only one oval.

- Life threatening
- Possibly life threatening
- Urgent, risk of permanent damage
- Somewhat urgent, needed to be seen on the same day
- Not urgent, but I wanted to be seen on the same day
- 7. Using any number from 0-10, where 0 is the worst possible and 10 is the best possible, what number would you use to rate your overall experience of care during this visit to the Emergency/Fast Track Department?

Mark only one oval.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Worst possible	\bigcirc	Best possible										

8. Using any number from 0-10, where 0 is the worst possible and 10 is the best possible, what number would you use to rate this hospital/health centre during your most recent visit?

Worst possible	\bigcirc	Best possible										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Mark only one ov	al.											

9. Would you recommend this hospital/health centre to your friends and family?

Mark only one oval.

Definitely yes
 Probably yes

- Probably no
- Definitely no

Page 3 of 11

 Please answer the following questions about nursing care during your most recent Emergency/Fast Track Department visit:

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
How often did the nurse(s) treat with you with courtesy and respect?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
How often did the nurse(s) listen carefully to you?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
How often did the nurse(s) explain things in a way you could understand?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

 Please answer the following questions about doctor/nurse practitioner care during your most recent Emergency/Fast Track Department visit:

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
How often did the doctor/nurse practitioner treat you with courtesy and respect?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
How often did the doctor/nurse practitioner listen carefully to you?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
How often did the doctor/nurse practitioner explain things in a way you could understand?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
How often did you feel involved in decisions about your care and treatment?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

12. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, were you told how long you would have to wait to be examined?

Mark only one oval.

- I did not have a wait time Skip to question 16
- Yes, but the wait was shorter
- Yes, and I had to wait as long as I was told
- Yes, but the wait was longer
- ONO, I was not told

Page 4 of 11

 During this Emergency/Fast Track visit, did a member of the staff check on you while you were waiting?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, but I would have liked them to check more often
- No, but I would have liked them to check
- ONo, but I did not mind
- 14. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did you consider leaving before you had been seen and treated?

Mark only one oval.

No Skip to question 16

- Yes considered it but stayed Skip to question 16
- Yes I did leave
- 15. What was the main factor in your decision to leave?

Mark only one oval.

Concern resolved, no longer needed to be seen

- Decided to seek health care elsewhere (family doctor, 811 NL Healthline, etc.)
- Unable to wait due to another commitment (work, childcare, etc.)
- Wait time was too long
- Waiting area was too crowded
- 16. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, how often did you feel you had enough privacy?

Mark only one oval.

Always
Usually
Sometimes
Never

Page 5 of 11

17. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, was your room clean?

Mark only one oval.



18. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, was the bathroom clean?

Mark only one oval.

Ves

19. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did you need medicine for pain?

Mark only one oval.

Yes
No Skip to question 22

20. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, was your pain well controlled?

Mark only one oval.

\subset	Yes
\subset	Somewhat
\subset	No

21. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did the staff do everything they could to help you with your pain?

Mark only one oval.

C	Yes
\subset) Somewhat
\subset	No

Page 6 of 11

22. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, were you given any medicine that you had not taken before?

Mark only one oval.

Yes	
O No	Skip to question 25

23. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did the staff tell you what the medicine was for?

Mark only one oval.

C	\supset	Yes
\subset	\supset	No

24. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did the staff describe possible side effects in a way you could understand?

Mark only one oval.

C	Yes
\subset	Somewhat
\subset	No

25. After you left the hospital or health centre, did you go directly to your own home, to someone else's home, or to another health facility?

Mark only one oval.

Own home

- Someone else's home
- Another health facility

Page 7 of 11

26. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did doctors, nurses, or another health professional talk with you about whether you would have the help you needed when you left the hospital or health centre?

Mark only one oval.



27. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did you get information about what symptoms or health problems to look out for after you left the hospital or health centre?

Mark only one oval.

Yes - was told the informati	on
Yes - was given the informa	tion in writing
No	

28. During this Emergency/Fast Track Department visit, did you get all the information you needed about your condition and treatment?

Mark only one oval.

C	Yes
C) Somewhat
C	No

29. Overall, do you feel you were helped by your Emergency/Fast Track Department visit? Please answer on a scale where 0 is "not helped at all" and 10 is "helped completely."



Page 8 of 11

30. In general, how would you rate your overall health?

Mark only one oval.

Excellent

Very good

Good

Fair

O Poor

31. Please indicate your age:

Mark only one oval.

16-24
 25-34
 35-44
 45-54
 55-64
 65-74
 75-84
 85+

32. Which best describes your gender?

Check all that apply.

Female
Male
Non-binary

Transgender

Another gender: ____

Page 9 of 11

33. People living in Newfoundland and Labrador come from many different cultural and racial backgrounds. The following question will help us to better understand the experiences of the communities that we serve. Do you consider yourself to be

Check all that apply.
Aboriginal/Indigenous
Arab
Black (North American, Caribbean, Afrian, etc.)
Chinese
Filipino
Japanese
Korean
Latin American/Latino/Hispanic
South Asian (East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.)
West Asian (Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
White (North American, European, etc.)
Other:

34. What is the highest grade or level of school that you have completed?

Mark only one oval.

8th grade or less

Some high school, but did not graduate

High school graduate or GED

- College or other non-university certificate or diploma
- Undergraduate degree or some university
- Post-graduate degree or professional designation

Page 10 of 11

35. Please provide any additional comments you would like to share. This survey is anonymous. Please do not include any identifying information. If you have feedback (concerns or compliments) requiring direct follow-up, please speak with our staff who provided your care or service, speak with their manager, or contact the Client Relations Office at 1-833-784-6802 (Confidential Client Feedback Line) or clientrelations@westernhealth.nl.ca.

Interested in becoming a Patient or Family Centered Care (PFCC) Advisor? Being an Advisor is a way for patients and families to work in partnership with health professionals to shape policies and programs, and to improve the health care system and services. Use the QR code below to visit Western Health's website (www.westernhealth.nl.ca) for more information.



Thank you for supporting quality improvement at Western Health!

Page 11 of 11