

ED Diversion Reduces Revenue

A study in the July 12 online issue of the Annals of Emergency Medicine finds that hospitals can increase revenue if their EDs decrease ambulance diversion times and they add more ICU beds.

A study in the July 12 online issue of the Annals of Emergency Medicine finds that hospitals can increase revenue if their EDs decrease ambulance diversion times and they add more ICU beds. Over a two-year period, researchers from Portland-based Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) conducted an analysis of the 400-bed OHSU Hospital. The researchers found that patients arriving at the hospital via ambulance incurred higher charges and produced average net revenues three times higher than patients arriving in the ED by other means. In addition, each hour of ambulance diversion from the ED cost the hospital about \$1,100. By adding more ICU beds and reducing ED diversion time, the hospital netted approximately \$175,000 per month in additional revenue, representing a 10% increase in monthly ED revenue and a 4% increase in overall monthly hospital revenue.