

# Together we can

## Emergency Medicine Program



People across Southeastern Ontario rely on the Emergency Medicine Program at the university hospitals of Kingston for treatment of a wide range of illnesses and injuries.

The emergency department at KGH provides trauma care for the most seriously ill and injured patients: a youngster in anaphylactic shock, a woman in cardiac arrest, a grandfather with an aneurysm, or a college student with a traumatic brain injury following a car accident. Our urgent care centre at Hotel Dieu Hospital provides care to patients with non life-threatening injuries or illnesses such as fever, eye injuries, cuts/burns, sprains, broken bones or any injury that should not wait for an appointment with a family doctor. The Emergency Medicine Program also provides on-call toxicology expertise through the Ontario Regional Poison Information Centre, available to practitioners across the province.

In addition, the Program provides specialized emergency services and support to patients who have been the victims of sexual assault or domestic violence. The Program is part of a provincially funded network of 34 treatment facilities across Ontario that specialize in sexual assault and domestic violence. Specially trained nurses provide crisis intervention, forensic evidence collection and documentation, risk assessment and safety plans for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. The Program also includes medical and social work follow-up, testing and preventive treatment for possible sexually transmitted infections, referrals to community services and counselling.

Government doesn't pay for all of our hospitals' equipment, research and education needs. That's why local support for our hospitals is critical if we want our community to have the very best health care services.

### Equipment

Emergency departments are stocked with a huge array of equipment that clinical staff rely on to help patients in a health crisis or trauma situation. The equipment is often expensive, from \$30,000 for a cardiac monitor that gives a visual display of the rhythm of a patient's heart to a \$25,000 defibrillator that delivers an electric shock to restart the heart.

At the same time, some of the equipment needs of the department can be met with small gifts that mean a lot. For example, the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program regularly require funds for care packages (toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.) for women who arrive in emergency without basic supplies, teddy bears to help soothe children who have been the victims of a assault, and new clothes for victims who need to provide their clothing to police as evidence of an assault.

### Education

Gifts to education encourage continuing education for health care workers; ensure high quality health care, and improve the morale of the people on the front lines who care for us during a health crisis.

Kingston's hospitals need to foster educational opportunities to ensure health care nurses, therapists and social workers gain new and current information in their field



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of practice. For example, highly skilled emergency medicine nurses need to continually hone their skills through courses in Advanced Trauma Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

The hospital is also working with Queen's University on the development of a comprehensive patient simulation lab, which uses highly sophisticated computerized mannequins to provide feedback to students, nurses and residents as they learn new clinical skills.

## Research

The Emergency Medicine Program assumes an active role in many multidisciplinary, multicentre research projects that focus on patient care, care protocols, and

clinical trials in the emergency department setting.

Research activity is concentrated in several areas including:

- Injury
- acute cardiovascular presentations
- pre-hospital care
- acetaminophen-induced toxicity

The Program is involved, at a national level, in research directed at the development of decision-making rules for emergency room clinical practices. Its Injury Research Group leads or co-ordinates multiple national studies on injury prevention and injury patterns and coordinates a national program for the surveillance of agricultural injuries (the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program or CAISP), and is a regional site of the

Canadian Hospitals Injury Research and Prevention Program (CHIRPP).

## *Opportunities for giving*

- Unrestricted gifts to help the Program  
*No minimum*
- Patient care equipment (list available)
- Send a nurse to a conference or training session  
\$500 - \$3,000
- Support on-site training session for clinical staff  
\$2,000 - \$5,000
- Invest in local hospital research  
*No minimum*

