

FHA ED Task Force
Call for “Innovative Strategies” for
EMERGENCY CARE SERVICES

Florida’s emergency care system is under significant pressure, facing increased patient volumes, capacity constraints, inappropriate use of the emergency care system, growing numbers of uninsured that use the emergency care system as a safety net, shortages of physicians willing to take emergency department call and challenges from regulatory uncertainties.

The FHA Task Force on Addressing the Crisis in Emergency Care has spent the past couple of months discussing and developing strategies is looking for innovative strategies in the following areas:

- EMS patient hand-off in the emergency department
- Emergency department throughput from registration to discharge to home or an inpatient bed
- ED overcapacity crisis plans
- Managing the inpatient stay to ensure that critical care areas have capacity to serve ED patients
- Programs to facilitate timely discharge of patients
- Programs that minimize the use of the emergency department for non-emergent care
- Other programs that reduce ED overcrowding, inappropriate use and/or facilitate providing emergency care to Floridians

We are looking to include examples of “innovative strategies” in our final report, due out in December. If you have implemented a program or programs that have improved your ability to provide timely emergency care, please provide:

- A description of the program
- When it was implemented
- Results (i.e. streamlined EMS-hospital hand-off, reduced patient wait times, eliminated boarders in the ED, etc.)

Please submit your “best practices” by **November 10, 2005** to:

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