RCEM Roadmap to Recovery

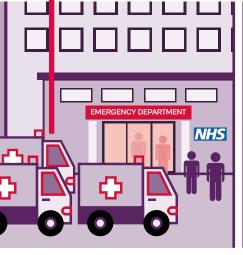## Royal College of Emergency Medicine

#ResuscitateEmergencyCare

In 2023/24 **400,000 people waited 24 hours** or more in an emergency department in England. This is unacceptable and our patients deserve better. Emergency care must be provided in an equitable, safe, and timely manner but increasing pressures on the system mean this is not always happening, resulting in patients being cared for in inappropriate spaces such as corridors. Clinicians have been stuck managing ongoing crises, with additional seasonal pressures, which have worsened overtime due to short-term fixes from policymakers. The system is under enormous pressure, but the problems are fixable. We urge all political parties to **#ResuscitateEmergencyCare**, reviving it as a lifeline during our most critical moments. We ask the new Government to commit to:
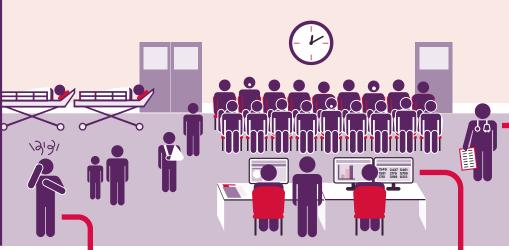
1. End overcrowding in Emergency Departments and ambulance queues outside of hospitals.

Fund the following to make sure hospitals have enough space and resources to care for every patient: provide enough hospital beds that are properly staffed to maintain an occupancy of no more than 85%, urgently repair hospital buildings that are in poor condition, and expand social care so when treatment is complete, patients can leave hospital quickly and safely.

2. Provide the UK with enough Emergency Medicine staff to deliver safe and sustainable care.

Expand emergency medicine training places in England by an additional 36 places, sustained each year for seven years to ensure that safe and timely care can be provided to patients. Furthermore, sufficient funding should be made available to the devolved administrations to support the new and continued expansion of training places in each nation. In Wales the figure is an additional four for the next six years, 11 over the next six years in Northern ireland, and Scotland must see the expansion agreed in 2021 sustained. Commit to addressing the retention crisis, so the NHS can retain its skilled workforce.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

NHS

3. Resource the NHS to ensure the emergency care system can provide equitable care to all.

Align resource allocation for the NHS with local population needs and increase capacity in mental health hospitals, so people who need admission to a mental health hospital receive prompt care close to home.

4. Introduce transparent ways of measuring how hospitals are performing so we know which ones need to improve.

Resource the health and social care system to meet the 95% four-hour standard in the long term and publish hospital-level performance figures to improve transparency across the NHS.

Read the full roadmap to recovery here