

Acute Research Unit

The Rationale

Advances in the diagnosis and treatment for patients with critical illnesses or injuries need to be rigorously evaluated in clinical trials at the point-of-care. The Emergency Department (ED) is a vital and common entry point to the hospital system for these patients. Capital Health has a solid history of collaborative research examining diagnostic procedures and therapies for acute conditions such as stroke, myocardial infarction, pneumonia, congestive heart failure and thromboembolic disease. Investigators conducting acute care research are from many departments and divisions within the hospital as well as from the provincial pre-hospital care system. In recent years, acute care research in the ED has faced growing constraints – high patient volumes, prolonged wait times, bed and staff shortages. Funding from the Nova Scotia Health Research foundation has enabled Capital Health to move forward with the creation of an innovation in clinical trial research for emergent and acute conditions – The Acute Research Unit.

The Acute Research Unit

The concept for a distinct unit represents a novel and efficient use of physical space, clinical and research resources to improve the quality, capacity and competitiveness for conducting emergent and acute care research at the Halifax Infirmary. This space provides for:

- A 2-bed unit that is physically separate but in close proximity to the emergency department (ED) that has the potential for 24/7 operations.
- Acute care research that thrives without adversely affecting clinical care
- Pooling of scarce resources to achieve efficiencies in operation
- The development of a cadre of highly qualified Research Coordinators who are trained to coordinate any of the clinical trials in the unit
- The potential for extended coverage by a Research coordinator will permit continuous enrolment in clinical trials



Contact

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