



# **Crowding ospedaliero in epoca COVID: un problema di tutti. La necessità di trovare una soluzione al fenomeno dell'exit block**

## **L'impatto della pandemia sui pazienti no covid 2022**

Relatore: Dottor Gabriele Savioli

Dottor Gabriele Savioli



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# Crowding ospedaliero



# Crowding ospedaliero 1.0 dalla letteratura alla pandemia



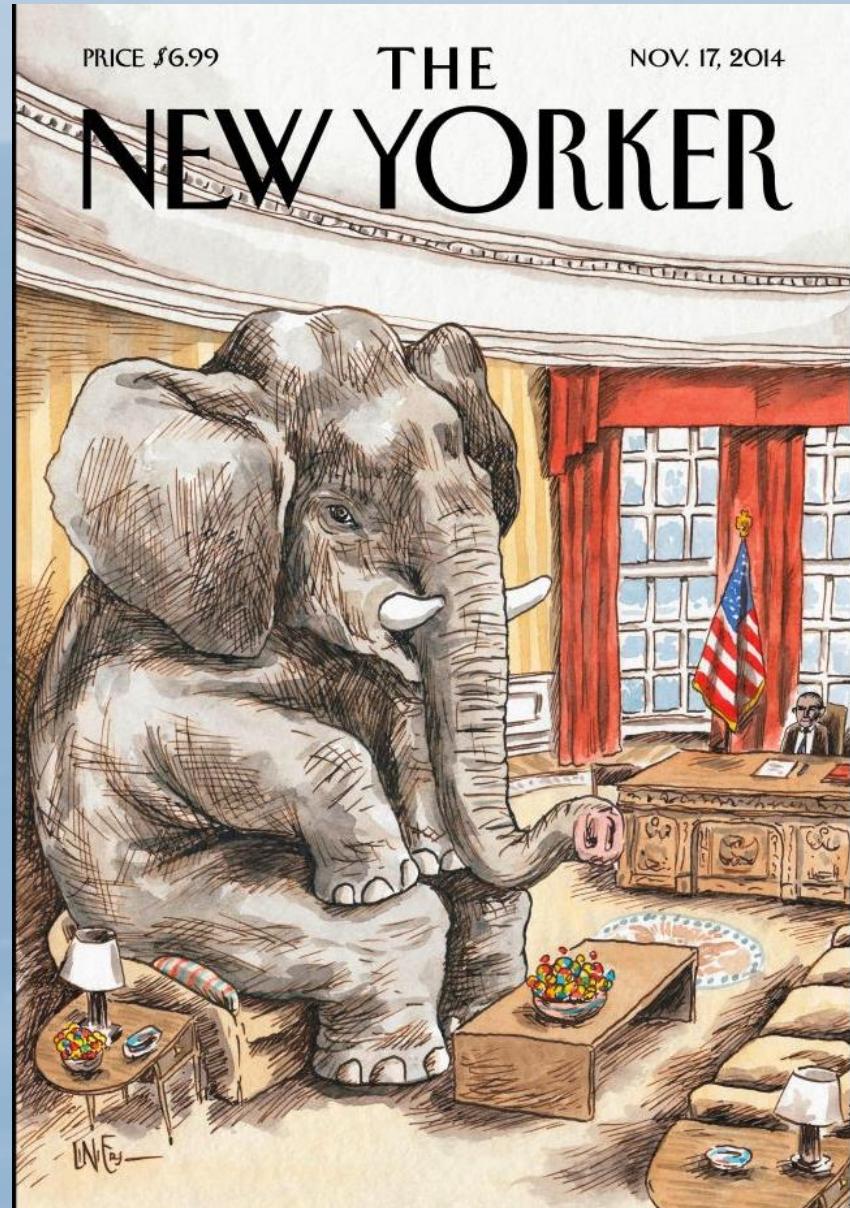
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# Sovraffollamento del Pronto Soccorso: ED-Crowding

Il Sovraffollamento del Pronto Soccorso è come un elefante che si trova in una stanza: è molto difficile descrivere

- quanto sia pesante
- quanto sia sgradevole
- fino a quando il pavimento reggerà

Pines JM: Moving closer to an operational definition for Emergency Department crowding. *Acad Emerg Med* 2007, 14:382-383.



# Sovraffollamento del Pronto Soccorso: definizioni delle società scientifiche

## American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)

L'affollamento si verifica quando la necessità identificata di servizi di emergenza supera le risorse disponibili per l'assistenza ai pazienti nel Pronto Soccorso, in ospedale o in entrambi.

Crowding. *Ann Emerg Med* 2006; **47**:585.

## Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP)

Il sovraffollamento del pronto soccorso si verifica quando la domanda di servizi di emergenza supera la capacità di un pronto soccorso di fornire assistenza di qualità entro tempi adeguati.

Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians. Emergency Department Overcrowding: Position Statement. 2009. [Http://caep.ca/sites/default/files/edoc\\_position\\_statement\\_board\\_approved\\_june\\_2009](http://caep.ca/sites/default/files/edoc_position_statement_board_approved_june_2009)

## Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM)

Il sovraffollamento del Pronto Soccorso si riferisce alla situazione in cui la funzione dello stesso è ostacolata a causa del numero di pazienti in attesa di essere visti, di quelli sottoposti a valutazione e trattamento o di quelli in attesa di ricovero e tale ostacolo supera le capacità di accoglienza fisica (numero di letti e barelle) o del quella del personale del Pronto Soccorso.

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Statement on Emergency Department Overcrowding. 2006. [http://www.acem.org.au/media/policies\\_and\\_guidelines/11012\\_S57\\_Emergency\\_Department\\_Overcrowding](http://www.acem.org.au/media/policies_and_guidelines/11012_S57_Emergency_Department_Overcrowding)



# Fattori che determinano il Sovraffollamento

**Il Pronto Soccorso è affollato se l'ospedale è affollato.**

- Fattori in ingresso (input factor)
- Fattori all'interno (throughput factors)
- Fattori in uscita (output factor)



Asplin BR, Magid DJ, Rhodes KV, Solberg LI, Lurie N, Camargo CA Jr. A conceptual model of emergency department crowding. Ann Emerg Med. 2003; 42(2):173±80.

<https://doi.org/10.1067/mem>. 2003.302 PMID: 12883504

# Fattori che determinano il Sovraffollamento: fattori in ingresso

- Numero di pazienti
- Percentuale o numero di pazienti con codici di elevata priorità alla visita medica
- Percentuale o numero di pazienti necessitanti alta intensità di cure
- Numero di frequent flyers
- Tempi di attesa alla visita medica (totale e per codice di priorità alla visita medica).





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# Fattori che determinano il Sovraffollamento: fattori all'interno

- tempo di processo
- esami ematochimici e di laboratorio
- esecuzione imaging
- refertazione dell'imaging



# Fattori che determinano il Sovraffollamento: fattori all'interno

- consulenza specialistica
- terapia
- monitoraggio del paziente
- osservazione del paziente
- tempo necessario tra le esecuzione di un primo esame e un esame di controllo



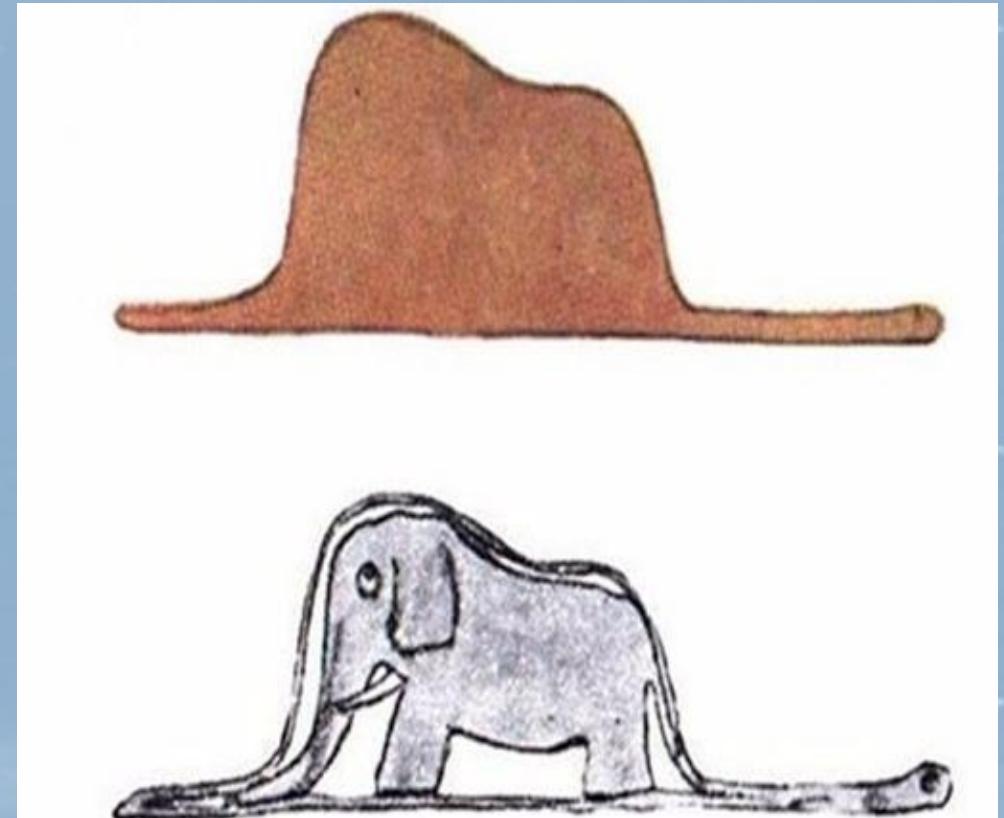
# Fattori che determinano il Sovraffollamento: fattori all'interno

- Personale sanitario
- Livello di formazione del personale
- Esperienza del personale di turno
- Turni serrati
- Turni oltre le 6 ore

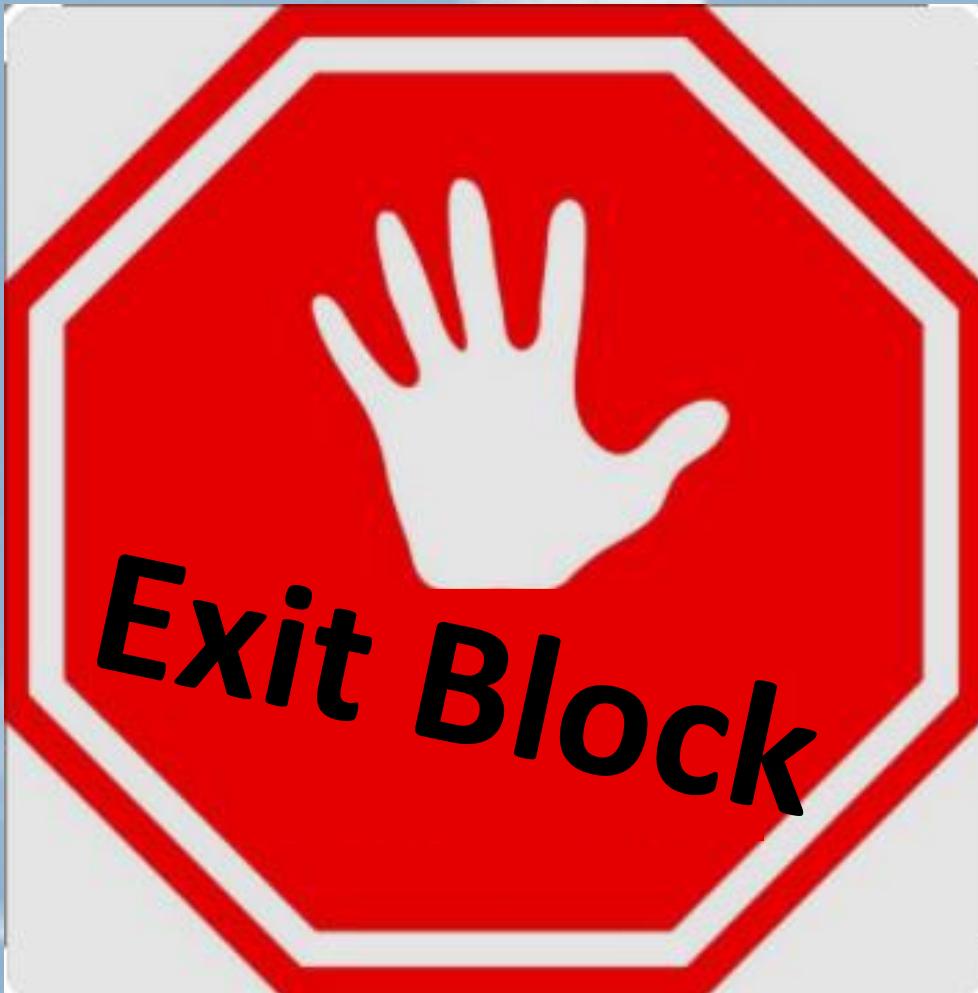


# Fattori che determinano il Sovraffollamento: fattori in uscita

- mancanza di posto letto
- mancanza di caregiver o assistenza domiciliare adeguata
- ritardo nel mezzo di trasporto che deve portare il paziente dal Pronto Soccorso al Domicilio
- ritardo nel mezzo di trasporto che deve portare il paziente dal Pronto Soccorso al reparto
- tempo totale di stanza in Pronto Soccorso (LOS)



# Riduzione a livello mondiale dei posti letto negli ospedali



- Richardson Myths versus facts in emergency department overcrowding and hospital access block. April 2009 The Medical journal of Australia
- Institute of Medicine, Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System. Hospital-based emergency care: at thebreaking point. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2006.
- Ardagh M, Richardson S. Emergency department overcrowding. Can we fix it? *N Z Med J* 2004; 117: U774.
- Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Policy document —standard terminology. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2002; 14: 337-340.
- American College of Emergency Physicians. Crowding. *Ann Emerg Med* 2006; 47: 585.
- Hwang U, Concato J. Care in the emergency department: how crowded is overcrowded? *Acad Emerg Med* 2004; 11: 1097-1101.



Boarding

- Jones SS, Allen TL, Flottemesch TJ, Welch SJ. An independent evaluation of four quantitative emergency department crowding scales. *Acad Emerg Med* 2006; 13: 1204-1211.
- Raj K, Baker K, Brierley S, Murray D. National emergency department overcrowding study tool is not useful in an Australian emergency department. *Emerg Med Australas* 2006; 18: 282-288.
- Hostetler MA, Mace S, Brown K, et al; Subcommittee on Emergency Department Overcrowding and Children, Section of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, American College of Emergency Physicians. Emergency department overcrowding and children. *Pediatr Emerg Care* 2007; 23: 507-515.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australia's health 2008. Canberra: AIHW, 2008. (AIHW Cat. No. AUS 99.) <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10585> (accessed Mar 2009).

# Riduzione a livello mondiale dei posti letto negli ospedali

# Posto letto è un bene prezioso

Admit to care



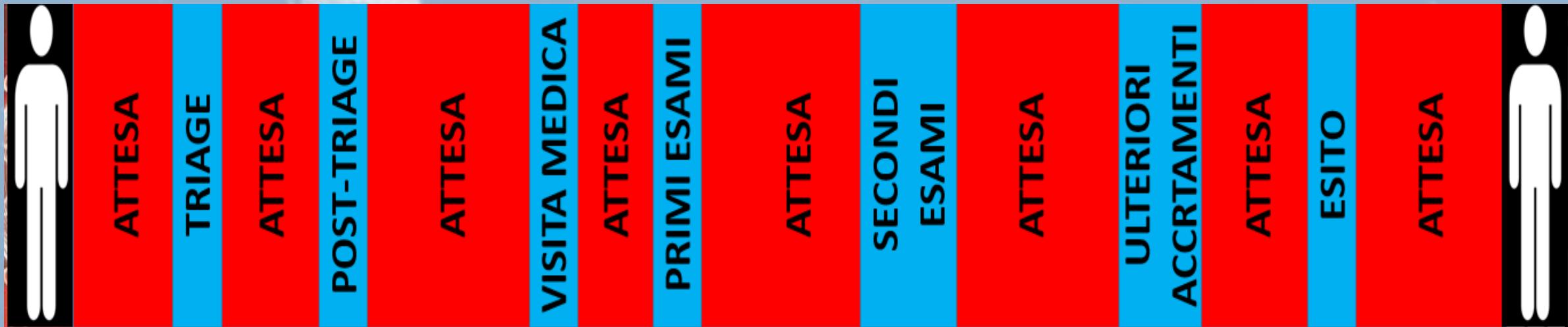
Care to admit

Ricoverare per  
curare



Prendersi cura  
per ricoverare

# Esempio pratico: un paziente va in Pronto Soccorso



come il paziente percepisce la sua esperienza di Pronto Soccorso  
se non consapevole dei meccanismi dello stesso

Di qui la necessità di informazione

# Effetti del sovraffollamento

- Allungamento dei tempi
- Aumento della insoddisfazione del paziente



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Policy document — standard terminology. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2002; 14: 337-340.

Richardson DB. Quantifying the effects of access block [abstract]. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2001; 13: A10.

Bernstein SL, Aronsky D, Duseja R, et al. SAEM Emergency Department Crowding Task Force. The effect of emergency department crowding on clinically oriented outcomes. *Acad Emerg Med* 2009; 16: 1-10.

Cameron PA. Hospital overcrowding: a threat to patient safety? *Med J Aust* 2006; 184: 203-204.

Chalfin DB, Trzeciak S, Likourezos A, et al; DELAY-ED study group. Impact of delayed transfer of critically ill patients from the emergency department to the intensive care unit. *Crit Care Med* 2007; 35: 1477-1483.

Sprivulis PC, Da Silva J-A, Jacobs IG, et al. The association between hospital overcrowding and mortality among patients admitted via Western Australian emergency departments. *Med J Aust*

*Aust* 2006; 184: 208-212.

Richardson DB. Increase in patient mortality at 10 days associated with emergency department overcrowding. *Med J Aust* 2006; 184: 213-216.

Fatovich DM, Nagree Y, Sprivulis P. Access block causes emergency department overcrowding and ambulance diversion in Perth, Western Australia. *Emerg Med J* 2005; 22: 351-354.

Schull MJ, Morrison LJ, Vermeulen M, Redelmeier DA. Emergency department overcrowding and ambulance transport delays for patients with chest pain. *CMAJ* 2003; 168: 277-283.

# Effetti del sovraffollamento

- Riduzione della qualità delle cure
- Non adeguata gestione del dolore



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Policy document — standard terminology. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2002; 14: 337-340.

Richardson DB. Quantifying the effects of access block [abstract]. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2001; 13: A10.

Bernstein SL, Aronsky D, Duseja R, et al. SAEM Emergency Department Crowding Task Force. The effect of emergency department crowding on clinically oriented outcomes. *Acad Emerg Med* Richardson DB. Increase in patient mortality at 10 days associated with emergency department overcrowding. *Med J Aust* 2006; 184: 213-216.

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# Effetti del sovraffollamento

- Aumento degli outcomes sfavorevoli
- Aumento della mortalità



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Policy document — standard terminology. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2002; 14: 337-340.

Richardson DB. Quantifying the effects of access block [abstract]. *Emerg Med (Fremantle)* 2001; 13: A10.

Bernstein SL, Aronsky D, Duseja R, et al. SAEM Emergency Department Crowding Task Force. The effect of emergency department crowding on clinically oriented outcomes. *Acad Emerg Med* Richardson DB. Increase in patient mortality at 10 days associated with emergency department overcrowding. *Med J Aust* 2006; 184: 213-216.

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# Pandemia COVID-19





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# Crowding ospedaliero 2.0

## La pandemia





# Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH

### Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic on Crowding: A Call to Action for Effective Solutions to “Access Block”

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Internal and Emergency Medicine

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EM - ORIGINAL



# How the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic changed the patterns of healthcare utilization by geriatric patients and the crowding: a call to action for effective solutions to the access block

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**Table 4.** Selected time variables accounting for crowding, by period.

	Period*	Observations	Mean	Standard error	Sum	P <sup>a</sup>
Wait time (min)					-	
	Control period	51,405	83	0.36	-	
	Pandemic	6,729	66	0.98	-	<0.001
LOS (min)					-	
	Control period	51,405	314	1.84	-	
	Pandemic	6,729	625	11.36	-	<0.001
Process time (min)					-	
	Control period	51,405	231	1.81	-	
	Pandemic	6,729	560	11.30	-	<0.001

\*The considered pandemic period was February 21–May 1, 2020. The control period was the sum of the timespans January 1–May 1, 2018; January 1–May 1, 2019; and January 1–February 20, 2020.

<sup>a</sup>t-test.

<sup>b</sup>Mean calculated only for hospitalized patients.

<sup>c</sup>Access block total time and boarding total time calculated only for hospitalized patients; by definition, it is not an average but the sum of each patient's access block times. Access block total time and boarding total time were calculated from February 21–May 1, 2020 for the pandemic period and as the mean of the periods February 21–May 1, 2019, and February 21–May 1, 2018 for the control period.

Min, minute; LOS, length of stay.

## Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Crowding

*Savioli et al.*

**Table 5.** Risk of overtime for selected time variables accounting for crowding, by period.

	Period*	OR <sup>a</sup>	95% Confidence interval	P
LOS	Control period	1.00 (Ref.)	-	
	Pandemic	2.58	2.40-2.78	<0.001
Boarding	Control period	1.00 (Ref.)	-	
	Pandemic	2.67	2.46-2.89	<0.001
Access block	Control period	1.00 (Ref.)	-	
	Pandemic	2.52	2.33-2.72	<0.001

\*The considered pandemic period was February 21–May 1, 2020. The control period was the sum of the timespans January 1–May 1, 2018; January 1–May 1, 2019; and January 1–February 20, 2020.

<sup>a</sup>ORs estimated by multiple regression analysis adjusted by age, gender, priority code at triage, presence of fever or respiratory symptoms, and need for moderate to high-intensity care.

LOS, length of stay; OR, odds ratio.

**Table 4.** Selected time variables accounting for crowding, by period.

	Period*	Observations	Mean	Standard error	Sum	P <sup>a</sup>
Access block time per patient <sup>b</sup> (min)					-	
	Control period	3,183	718	11.81	-	
	Pandemic	1,260	1223	40.29	-	<0.001
Access block total time aggregate <sup>c</sup> (hours)						
	Control period	3,183	-	-	5,420 <sup>c</sup>	
	Pandemic	1,260	-	-	22,653 <sup>c</sup>	-
Boarding time per patient <sup>b</sup> (min)					-	
	Control period	3,183	640	13.42	-	
	Pandemic	1,260	1150	45.35	-	<0.001
Boarding total time aggregate <sup>c</sup> (hours)						
	Control period	3,183	-	-	6,970 <sup>c</sup>	
	Pandemic	1,260	-	-	25,954 <sup>c</sup>	

## Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Crowding

*Savioli et al.*

**Table 3.** Selected reasons for access to emergency department for patients included in the study, by period of observation.

	Period*			
	Control	Pandemic	P <sup>a</sup>	Total
Minor medical issues				
No (%)	44,629 (86.8)	6,057 (90.0)		50,686 (87.2)
Yes (%)	6,780 (13.2)	672 (10)	<0.001	7,452 (12.8)
Minor trauma				
No (%)	39,692 (77.2)	5,954 (88.5)		45,646 (78.5)
Yes (%)	11,717 (22.8)	775 (11.5)	<0.001	12,492 (21.5)
Major trauma				
No (%)	51,182 (99.6)	6,725 (99.9)		57,907 (99.6)
Yes (%)	227 (0.4)	4 (0.1)	<0.001	231 (0.4)
Occupational accident				
No (%)	49,710 (96.7)	6,569 (97.6)		56,279 (96.8)
Yes (%)	1,699 (3.3)	160 (2.4)	<0.001	1,859 (3.2)

## Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Crowding

*Savioli et al.*

**Table 3.** Selected reasons for access to emergency department for patients included in the study, by period of observation.

	Period*		
	Control	Pandemic	P <sup>a</sup>
<b>Disease with fever</b>			
No (%)	49,790 (96.8)	5,572 (82.8)	
Yes (%)	1,619 (3.1)	1,157 (17.2)	<0.001
<b>Respiratory symptoms</b>			
No (%)	48,085 (93.5)	5,836 (86.8)	
Yes (%)	3,324 (6.5)	893 (13.3)	<0.001
<b>Thoracic pain</b>			
No (%)	47,227 (91.9)	6,136 (91.2)	
Yes (%)	4,182 (8.1)	593 (8.8)	0.057
<b>Neurologic disease</b>			
No (%)	48,364 (94.1)	6,222 (92.5)	
Yes (%)	3,045 (5.9)	507 (7.5)	<0.001
			Total
			55,362 (95.2)
			2,776 (4.8)
			53,921 (92.8)
			4,217 (7.3)
			53,363 (91.8)
			4,775 (8.2)
			54,586 (93.9)
			3,552 (6.1)



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# Impatto della pandemia sul sovraffollamento

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How the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic changed the patterns of healthcare utilization by geriatric patients and the crowding: a call to action for effective solutions to the access block

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Dottor Gabriele Savioli

## Crowding Indices

### *Causes of Crowding*

Crowding of EDs has been reported for several decades. Our study found that input factors played a modest/ambivalent role in crowding in this pandemic. ED crowding had two main causes: the worsening of output and throughput factors. With regard to output factors, crowding was caused by the access block phenomenon and in particular by an

#### Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Crowding

important for both ensuring appropriate emergency surge capacity and providing evidence to redesign emergency services to decrease healthcare-related infections after disease outbreak.

#### Various Causes of ED Visits

During the pandemic there was a net reduction in some reasons for ED visits such as minor trauma or minor medical issues, confirming the reduction of low-acuity visits. Although the percentage of patients who had febrile symptoms at home was much higher during the pandemic, the proportion of patients who had fever at triage was not increased. This is also likely attributable to the fact that body temperature has been measured in a greater number of patients during the pandemic (53.2% vs 12.7% before the pandemic).

#### Savioli et al.

## Crowding Indices

### *Causes of Crowding*

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# With regard to throughput factors

an epidemic spread and ED visits decrease, preparations for serious conditions must be focused, and patients with severe diseases should not face barriers to emergency care. This situation also underlines the need to consider “clean” or low-risk infectious pathways for the most serious reasons for ED visits.

wards in which the risk of infection had to remain low.

With regard to throughput factors, crowding has resulted from changes in the role of emergency physicians and EDs. Emergency departments are no longer merely where patients are sorted into specialist departments; patients are now treated and stabilized, and differential diagnostic tests

are performed in the ED. This change in the level of care has been exacerbated in the pandemic because of the high number of critically ill patients who require stabilization before transfer to the hospital wards, and the change in patient management caused by the pandemic. In particular, the need for frequent checks, ventilatory therapies, nasal

To improve the practice of boarding patients, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) established a task force to develop a list of low-cost, high-impact solutions.<sup>42-43</sup> One of the key solutions proposed by ACEP is the use of a full-capacity protocol.<sup>41</sup> Although this was an effective response, the need for effective solutions for

# Impatto della pandemia sul sovraffollamento

- La attività di Pronto Soccorso ordinaria prosegue
- Riduzione dell'influenza dei fattori di affollamento in ingresso
- Aumento dei fattori di affollamento all'interno
- Aumento dei fattori di affollamento in uscita



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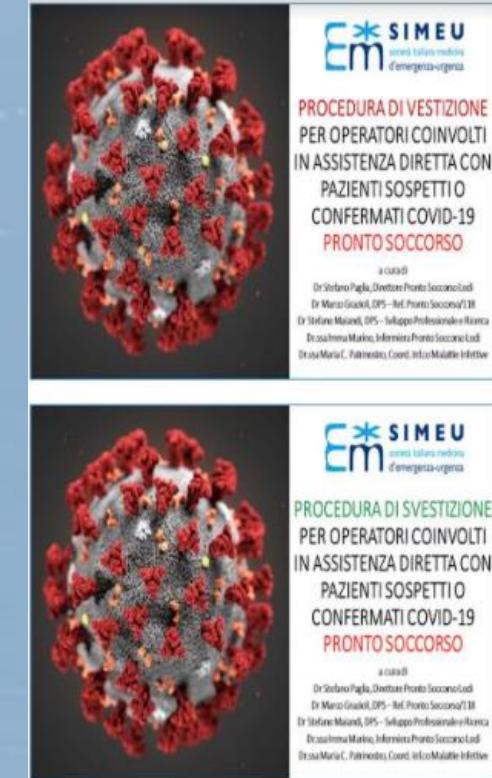
## Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic on Crowding: A Call to Action for Effective Solutions to “Access Block”

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# Fattori di affollamento all'interno dovuti alla pandemia

- vestizione e svestizione
- disinfezione delle sale e degli ambienti
- l'esito del tampone
- comunicazione telefonica con i familiari
- agevolare il dialogo dei pazienti ricoverati con i loro parenti



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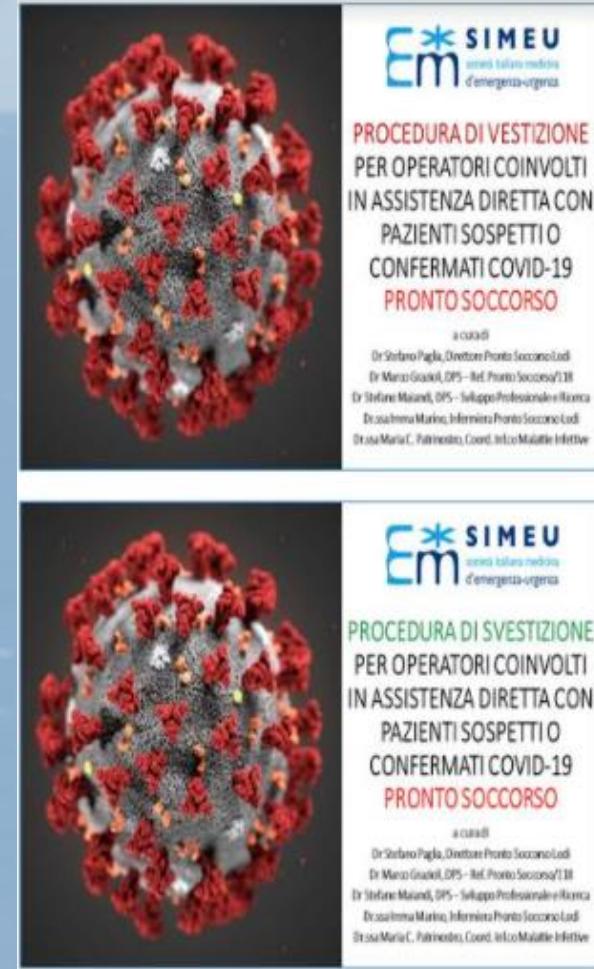
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# Fattori di affollamento all'interno dovuti alla pandemia

- i tempi di esecuzione della terapia
- i flussi che abbiamo visto separati ab inizio implicano lo sdoppiamento, o ancor meglio, il raddoppio del lavoro per la stessa Equipe medico infermieristica e di personale del sistema dell'urgenza.
- Occorre seguire pazienti su più flussi, flussi che non si possono incrociare.



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# With regard to output factors

*Savioli et al.*

However, it is important to emphasize that all patients, even those in need of low-intensity care, have struggled against access block. Therefore, the lack of beds seems to be the main cause of access block. Our opinion is that EDs are crowded when hospitals are crowded. The waiting time for

## Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Crowding

*Savioli et al.*

low-acuity conditions most strongly decrease when the risk of infection overwhelms the benefits of emergency service use. The rate of visits for serious conditions did not decline in the same manner. Even the inputs for high-acuity diseases, albeit stable in percentage terms, were reduced, although to a smaller degree. This is the case, for example, with presentations for chest pain and neurological disorders. This has been highlighted by some studies which reported an increase in late diagnoses.<sup>47-50</sup> When fears of an epidemic spread and ED visits decrease, preparations for serious conditions must be focused, and patients with severe diseases should not face barriers to emergency care. This situation also underlines the need to consider “clean” or low-risk infectious pathways for the most serious reasons for ED visits.

However, it is important to emphasize that all patients, even those in need of low-intensity care, have struggled against access block. Therefore, the lack of beds seems to be the main cause of access block. Our opinion is that EDs are crowded when hospitals are crowded. The waiting time for hospitalization was also prolonged because it was necessary to screen all patients before assigning them to a “clean” vs COVID-unit bed to ensure that infected (and perhaps asymptomatic) patients were not admitted to “clean” wards or wards in which the risk of infection had to remain low.

With regard to throughput factors, crowding has resulted from changes in the role of emergency physicians and EDs. Emergency departments are no longer merely where patients are sorted into specialist departments; patients are now treated and stabilized, and differential diagnostic tests

# Fattori di affollamento in uscita dovuti alla pandemia

- Fenomeno del Boarding per ricovero per attesa tampone pre-ricovero dal PS ai reparti.
- Exit block per attesa tampone pre-dimissione dei pazienti dall'ospedale.



How the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic changed the patterns of healthcare utilization by geriatric patients and the crowding: a call to action for effective solutions to the access block

Gabriele Savioli<sup>1,2</sup> . Iride Francesca Ceresa<sup>1</sup> . Viola Novelli<sup>3</sup> . Giovanni Ricevuti<sup>4</sup> . Maria Antonietta Bressan<sup>1</sup> .

**Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic on Crowding: A Call to Action for Effective Solutions to “Access Block”**

Gabriele Savioli MD, PhD\*  
Iride Francesca Ceresa\*

\*Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Department of Emergency Medicine,  
Pavia, Italy

Dottor Gabriele Savioli

# With regard to output factors

crowding was caused by:

1. the access block phenomenon
2. and in particular by an unprecedented need for care in medium- and high-intensity care units.



# Crowding ospedaliero 3.0 cose attese e cose inattese

Il fatto che tale fabbisogno  
fosse senza precedenti  
significa che non potevamo  
aspettarcelo?



# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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> Open Access Emerg Med. 2020 Nov 16;12:377-387. doi: 10.2147/OAEM.S267069. eCollection 2020.

## Preparing for the Maximum Emergency with a Simulation: A Table-Top Test to Evaluate Bed Surge Capacity and Staff Compliance with Training

Iride Francesca Ceresa <sup>1</sup>, Gabriele Savioli <sup>1 2</sup>, Valentina Angeli <sup>3</sup>, Viola Novelli <sup>4</sup>, Alba Muzzi <sup>4</sup>, Giuseppina Grugnetti <sup>5</sup>, Lorenzo Cobianchi <sup>6</sup>, Federica Manzoni <sup>7</sup>, Catherine Klersy <sup>7</sup>, Paolo Lago <sup>8</sup>, Pierantonio Marchese <sup>9</sup>, Carlo Marena <sup>4</sup>, Giovanni Ricevuti <sup>10</sup>, Maria Antonietta Bressan <sup>11</sup>

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PMID: 33235525 PMCID: PMC7678714 DOI: 10.2147/OAEM.S267069

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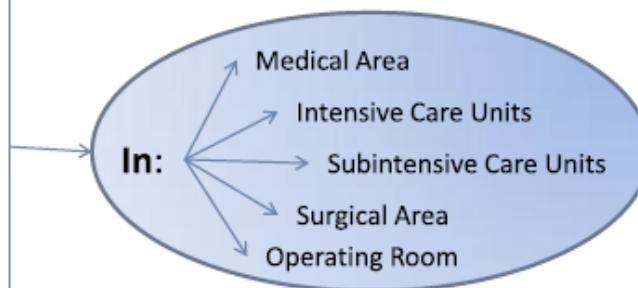
# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Ceresa et al

Dovepress

## Bed surge capacity. Infographic sketching

### Evaluation of the proportion of dismissible patients



### Hospital setting

- ✓ public hospital
- ✓ City of Pavia (Italy)
- ✓ over 1000 accredited beds
- ✓ catchment area of 700 thousand inhabitants.
- ✓ 37,000 hospitalizations all
- ✓ over 245,000 days of hospitalization;
- ✓ 4,700,000 performances outpatient;
- ✓ 100,000 Emergency Department visits
- ✓ 650,000 emergency-urgency services;
- ✓ over 30,000 surgical interventions
- ✓ average of 2,000 births per year;
- ✓ over 230 transplants every year.

### Table top simulation

- 2 Phases
- four scenarios (3 with regard to Phase 1 and 1 for Phase 2)
- at 2 (T2) and 24 (T24) hours after a simulated maximum emergency

through :

Performed by:

#### 1 Phase

105 subjects :  
68 doctors on guard  
36 nurses

#### 2 Phase

18 subjects :  
18 Nursing Coordinator

when: On weekdays and holidays

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## classification of patients to find dimissible ones

A	patient's need for a high-intensity care
B	patient's need for a intensity care equal to that provided at the time of detection one
C	Patients who are able to transfer to either a bed with a below-current level of care/intensity
D	Patients who are able to transfer in a hypothetical discharge-room
E	Patients who are able to transfer in a hospital with a lower intensity of care/rehabilitation structure
F	Patients who are able to safe home discharge

## patients evaluated

### **Phase 1: 3 simulation waves (I, II, III) performed at T2 and T24.**

2.326 assessments were carried out on an average of 388 hospitalized patients

I T2: 369, I T24: 399; II T2: 399, II T24: 387; III T2: 413, III T24: 385

### **Phase 2: 1 simulation waves (I) performed at T2 and T24**

699 Assessments

285 T2 and 414 T24 patients

## Conclusions

- The availability of beds in the simulations is greater than the theoretical bed surge capacity
- Intensive and Sub-Intensive Areas limit the Hospital Bed Surge Capacity
- Age is a parameter that influences the Bed Surge Capacity
- The availability of DEA ORs are not a problem during an ME
- The analysis of response times allowed to see how the compliance increased with the recurrence of the surveys.

# Cosa potevamo aspettarci? Cosa dovevamo aspettarci?





L'impatto della  
pandemia sui  
pazienti  
no covid 2022



# Epidemie



L'impatto della  
pandemia sui  
pazienti  
no covid 2022



# CAMBIA L'UTILIZZO DEL PRONTO SOCCORSO DURANTE LA PANDEMIA ?

# Epidemie e utilizzo del Pronto Soccorso

Le epidemie possono avere effetti diversi sul comportamento dei pazienti a seconda dei tassi di mortalità e dell'impatto emotivo dell'epidemia stessa sulla popolazione. È probabile che le epidemie con alti tassi di mortalità ridurranno gli accessi al sistema sanitario ma aumenteranno il numero di pazienti gravi. Tuttavia, epidemie con tassi di mortalità inferiori e minori effetti emotivi possono comportare un maggiore utilizzo dell'assistenza sanitaria.

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# Epidemics and emergency department utilization

Tutto questo è valso anche per la COVID-19 pandemic.



# Crowding ospedaliero 4.0 rissa tra miti e fatti



# Miti da sfatare sul sovraffollamento del Pronto Soccorso e sul fenomeno dell' Access Block

## ACCESS BLOCK

Myths versus facts in emergency department  
overcrowding and hospital access block

Drew B Richardson and David Mountain

Richardson Myths versus facts in emergency department overcrowding and hospital access block. April 2009 The Medical journal of Australia

# Myths versus facts in Emergency Department Crowding and Hospital Access Block

- Gli accessi “impropri” o “da medico di base” causano il sovraffollamento
- Il sovraffollamento è in gran parte il risultato dei pazienti che devono essere ricoverati ma permangono in PS in attesa di letti di degenza adeguati

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Original article

## Why are people increasingly attending the emergency department? A study of the French healthcare system

Helene Colineaux,<sup>1,2</sup> Fanny Pelissier,<sup>3</sup> Laure Pourcel,<sup>3</sup> Thierry Lang,<sup>1,2</sup>  
Michelle Kelly-Irving,<sup>2</sup> Olivier Azema,<sup>3</sup> Sandrine Charpentier,<sup>2,4</sup> Sebastien Lamy<sup>2</sup>

### Conclusion and implication

Since at least 2002, there has been an increase in visits to the ED, independently of population size increase or structural changes. It appears that the increase is not attributable to non-severe visits but rather to moderately severe visits.



# Comparison of Presenting Complaint vs Discharge Diagnosis for Identifying “Nonemergency” Emergency Department Visits

Maria C. Raven, MD, MPH, MSc

Robert A. Lowe, MD, MPH

Judith Maselli, MSPH

Renee Y. Hsia, MD, MSc

**Importance** Reduction in emergency department (ED) use is frequently viewed as a potential source for cost savings. One consideration has been to deny payment if the patient's diagnosis upon ED discharge appears to reflect a “nonemergency” condition. This approach does not incorporate other clinical factors such as chief complaint that may inform necessity for ED care.

**Conclusions and Relevance** Among ED visits with the same presenting complaint as those ultimately given a primary care–treatable diagnosis based on ED discharge diagnosis, a substantial proportion required immediate emergency care or hospital admission. The limited concordance between presenting complaints and ED discharge diagnoses suggests that these discharge diagnoses are unable to accurately identify nonemergency ED visits.

JAMA. 2013;309(11):1145-1153

[www.jama.com](http://www.jama.com)

# Myths versus facts in Emergency Department Crowding and Hospital Access Block

- Il sovraffollamento è il risultato di un numero eccessivo di pazienti che arrivano e aspettano di essere visti da un medico
- Gli accessi dei pazienti al PS sono aumentate, ma il numero di pazienti in attesa di vedere un medico rimane inferiore al numero in attesa di un letto ospedaliero

# Myths versus facts in Emergency Department Crowding and Hospital Access Block

- Il sovraffollamento può essere ridotto costruendo PS più grandi
- L'aumento delle dimensioni del PS è associato a un aumento del sovraffollamento

# Myths versus facts in Emergency Department Crowding and Hospital Access Block

- Il sovraffollamento non influenza gli esiti dei pazienti
- Il sovraffollamento ha gravi effetti negativi sui processi ospedalieri, sulla qualità delle cure e sugli esiti dei pazienti, inclusa la mortalità

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# Myths versus facts in Emergency Department Crowding and Hospital Access Block

- Le cause del sovraffollamento si trovano all'interno del PS
- Le cause e le soluzioni al sovraffollamento si trovano al di fuori del PS

# Crowding ospedaliero 5.0 la soluzione e le soluzioni tampone

# Una disfunzione dell'intero ospedale richiede una risposta dell'intero ospedale o dell'intero sistema

È noto che alti livelli di sovraffollamento sono associati a una cattiva funzionalità ospedaliera e del sistema, cure inefficienti e aumento degli episodi di sovraffollamento ospedaliero e ED. In effetti, è una constatazione universale che operare a piena capacità per periodi prolungati sia inefficiente e insostenibile.

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Dottor Gabriele Savioli

# Una disfunzione dell'intero ospedale richiede una risposta dell'intero ospedale o dell'intero sistema

Il sovraffollamento del PS è meglio visto come un indicatore di disfunzione dell'intero ospedale che richiede una risposta dell'intero ospedale o dell'intero sistema. La disponibilità di posti letto dipende non solo dal numero fisico di letti, ma anche dal modo in cui il letto viene gestito (uso appropriato, buone pratiche di flusso), usi concorrenti per i letti (ad esempio, cure elettive contro cure acute), la disponibilità di unità dedicata alla dimissioni e un'adeguata assistenza comunitaria.

# Figure coinvolte nella risposta sono molteplici:

- Medici/infermieri del sistema dell'urgenza
- Medici/infermieri dell'ospedale
- Medici di base
- Politici
- Cittadini

# Soluzioni proposte input factor

- Diminuire uso degli ED:
  - educational/increase health literacy; potenziare accessi alle cure primarie e alle cure specialistiche
  - Affrontare i social determinants of health (vita sedentaria, alimentazione...)

# Soluzioni proposte throughput factor

- Adeguato organico
- Adeguata formazione dell'organico presente
- Alliging staffing with census and volume
- Divisione di flussi (per intensità di cura, acuti non acuti..)
- Fast track
- percorsi standardizzati per sottogruppi di pazienti (disturbi mentali, pazienti geriatrici, bambini...)

# Soluzioni proposte throughput-output factor

- Centralized hospital-wide operations center
  - Bed turnover, servizi di trasporto, servizio di pulizie (housekeeping)
  - Use of alcove and hallway beds
  - Transferring certain cohorts of patients to affiliated hospital for inpatient care

# Soluzioni proposte throughput-output factor

- Hospital-wide surge plan

- Riprogrammare le procedure elettive
- Sospensione attività ambulatoriale per reclutamento di personale
- Posticipare l'imaging ambulatoriale
- Reclutamento staff ancillare

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# Soluzioni proposte throughput-output factor

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## Factors Affecting Emergency Department Crowding

James F. Kenny, MD<sup>a,\*</sup>, Betty C. Chang, MD<sup>a</sup>, Keith C. Hemmert, MD<sup>b</sup>

### *Observation or short stay units*

Other strategies that can impact hospital admissions are disposition pathways. These programs represent a bridge between microlevel and macrolevel factors because they lay at the intersection of ED and inpatient care.<sup>68</sup> One such strategy is building an observation unit or a short stay unit. After the initial evaluation and management in the ED, some patients may require additional time for evaluation and treatment, but not enough to warrant a full hospital admission. Rapid treatment and evaluation units or observation units fulfill this role by serving as an extension of treatment initiated in the ED. To decompress ED crowding, these units are often geographically separated from the ED.<sup>69</sup>

Certain illness and disease processes are highly conducive to observation admissions where objective criteria for risk stratification can help to streamline care. Conditions such as asthma, cellulitis, congestive heart failure, nonspecific abdominal pain, chest pain, and acute kidney injury have been shown to be safely managed within an observation setting, which can often avoid many of the time and staffing constraints of inpatient units.<sup>60</sup> Observation units can decrease ED boarding by moving a cohort of patients who would have otherwise occupied in-patient hospital beds to more temporary units, thus freeing up inpatient beds and resources for critically ill patients and ED beds for undifferentiated patients.<sup>55,70</sup>





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## Factors Affecting Emergency Department Crowding

James F. Kenny, MD<sup>a,\*</sup>, Betty C. Chang, MD<sup>a</sup>, Keith C. Hemmert, MD<sup>b</sup>



medicina

Article

## Role of a Brief Intensive Observation Area with a Dedicated Team of Doctors in the Management of Acute Heart Failure Patients: A Retrospective Observational Study

Gabriele Savioli <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Iride Francesca Ceresa <sup>1</sup>, Federica Manzoni <sup>3</sup>, Giovanni Ricevuti <sup>4</sup>, Maria Antonietta Bressan <sup>5</sup> and Enrico Oddone <sup>6</sup>



medicines

Article

## Impact of ED Organization with a Holding Area and a Dedicated Team on the Adherence to International Guidelines for Patients with Acute Pulmonary Embolism: Experience of an Emergency Department Organized in Areas of Intensity of Care

Gabriele Savioli <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Iride Francesca Ceresa <sup>1</sup>, Paolo Maggioni <sup>1</sup>, Massimiliano Lava <sup>3</sup>, Giovanni Ricevuti <sup>4</sup>, Federica Manzoni <sup>5</sup>, Enrico Oddone <sup>6</sup> and Maria Antonietta Bressan <sup>1</sup>



Dottor Gabriele Savioli

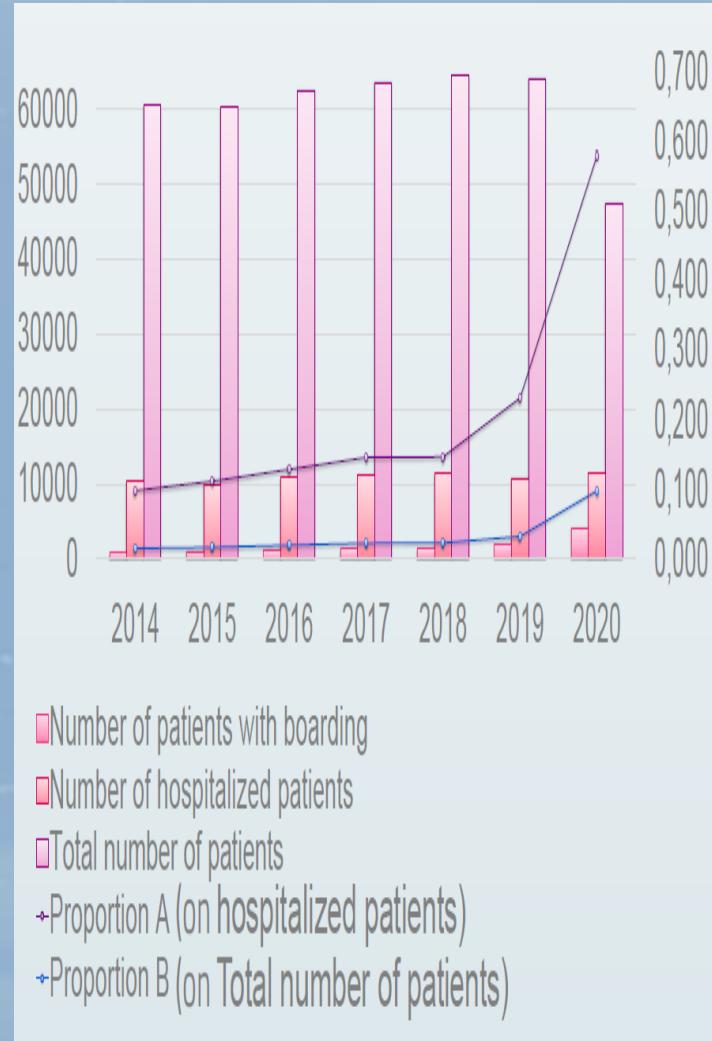


## OBI TEAM as a crowding solution: coordination of flows, stabilization of complex patients, boarding management, bed management

Gabriele Savioli 1, Iride Francesca Ceresa1, Viola Novelli5, Alba Muzzi5, Giovani Ricevuti4, Enrico Oddone2, Maria Antonietta Bressan3.

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	p for trend
<b>Boarding#</b>								
<b>No</b>	9,404	9,030	9,617	9,792	10,041	8,781	7,291	
	91.0%	89.9%	88.6%	87.2%	87.2%	81.2%	63.3%	
<b>Yes</b>	926	1,010	1,241	1,431	1,475	2,033	4,230	
	9.0%	10.1%	11.4%	12.8%	12.8%	18.8%	36.7%	< 0.001
<b>Exit Block#</b>								
<b>No</b>	9,544	9,089	9,717	9,934	10,148	8,792	7,688	
	92.4%	90.5%	89.5%	88.5%	88.1%	81.3%	66.7%	
<b>Yes</b>	786	951	1,141	1,289	1,368	2,022	3,833	
	7.6%	9.5%	10.5%	11.5%	11.9%	18.7%	33.3%	< 0.001
<b>Accesses/day</b>	165.8	165.3	170.8	174.4	176.8	175.8	129.8	
<b>N.accesses</b>	60,512	60,336	62,527	63,662	64,540	64,181	47,500	



# Soluzioni proposte throughput-output factor

## Medical home or hospital-at-home programs

### *Medical homes or hospital-at-home programs*

Medical homes or hospital-at-home programs are another novel way to decrease overall hospital admissions. Here, select cohorts of patients are discharged home after their initial treatment in the ED. Patients can now stay in the comfort of their homes, while clinicians are deployed to continue the care.<sup>71</sup> The hospital may consider enacting a med-to-bed program to ensure that care is not interrupted during the peridischarge period. Medications that will be needed after the initial treatment are dispensed to patients at discharge.

Technological innovations such as telemedicine and continuous remote vital sign monitoring can enhance this alternative.<sup>72</sup> Using telemedicine, patients can be followed closely by a clinician after discharge from the ED, and can also receive other services remotely (consultants, care managers, social workers, etc). Although under-studied, these hospital-at-home programs can likely decrease ED boarding by diverting less acute patients home while maintaining some of the benefits of an inpatient stay.

### Factors Affecting Emergency Department Crowding

James F. Kenny, MD<sup>a,\*</sup>, Betty C. Chang, MD<sup>a</sup>, Keith C. Hemmert, MD<sup>b</sup>



# Crowding ospedaliero 6.0 prepararsi o essere preparati?

# Eravamo pronti? Avremmo potuto esserlo di più?



# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- Eravamo pronti?
- Avremmo dovuto essere pronti?
- Come ci siamo preparati?
- Come ci siamo comportati?
- Cosa abbiamo imparato?



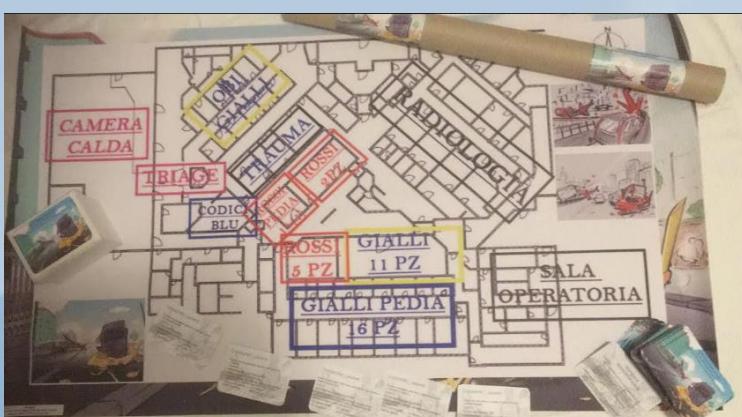
# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)



Il personale era già abituato a lavorare nelle aree di terapia intensiva, ed erano stati precedentemente eseguiti corsi e simulazioni che coinvolgevano l'intero ospedale, utilizzando i piani dei tavoli per far fronte a varie situazioni di maxi-emergenza, un afflusso massiccio di pazienti con lesioni e malattie batteriologiche e chimiche.

Ceresa IF, Savioli G, Angeli V, Novelli V, Muzzi A, Grugnetti G, Cobianchi L, Manzoni F, Klersy C, Lago P, Marchese P, Marena C, Ricevuti G, Bressan MA. Preparing for the Maximum Emergency with a Simulation: A Table-Top Test to Evaluate Bed Surge Capacity and Staff Compliance with Training. Open Access Emerg Med. 2020 Nov 16;12:377-387. doi: 10.2147/OAEM.S267069. PMID: 33235525; PMCID: PMC7678714.

L'impatto della  
pandemia sui  
pazienti  
no covid 2022



Situazione Maxiemergenza e Medicina delle Catastrofi  
Dott. Gabriele Savioli & Dott.ssa Irina F. Ceresa  
Dirigenza Medica Pronto Soccorso Accettazione Penetrazione IRCCS Policlinico v.Bon Matteo Parigi

Workgame  
MAXIEMERGENZA

- SCENARIO:**
  - Aliante amatoriale si scontra con veivolo leggero di scuola di volo.
  - I mezzi precipitano su crocevia autostradale ferroviario.
  - Precipitando l'aliante ha impatto con treno passeggeri mentre il veivolo su raccordo stradale impatta con camion con trasporto di prodotti chimici esplosivi e finisce la sua corsa schiantandosi contro casa di vicino centro abitato.
  - Segue incidente automobilistico con dinamica frontale e tamponamento multiplo
- REGOLAMENTO:**
  - assegna un codice colore triage secondo il protocollo START a ciascuna carta paziente. Quindi prosegui nel gestire la maxi emergenza nel tuo ospedale avvalendoti della mappa ospedale.



Dottor Gabriele Savioli



Presto saremo chiamati a scegliere  
tra ciò che è giusto e ciò che è facile



The  
End



L'impatto della  
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# GRAZIE DELL'ATTENZIONE!!

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Dottor Gabriele Savioli



**Ogni fine è un nuovo inizio**

*Ci sarà sempre un'altra opportunità, un'altra amicizia, un altro amore, una nuova forza*

*(Il Piccolo Principe, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry).*