Tackling ER wait times is a complex task

BY CARLIE BELLCHICK DISH

Emergency Room wait times are on the rise and are moving forward with its strategy to make regional health care a reality. In 2009, wait times in the region were on average of 9.3 hours. In 2010, the trend continued and the average wait time rose to 10.6 hours. Despite the increase, there are solutions to the problem that can make the wait times more manageable.

One way to improve ER wait times is to ensure that the services of the ER are more efficient. This can be done by streamlining the flow of patients and reducing the amount of time that is spent waiting. One example of this is the implementation of an electronic medical record system, which can help to improve communication between healthcare providers and reduce the amount of time that is spent waiting for test results.

Another solution is to improve the infrastructure of the ER. This can be done by investing in new equipment and facilities, as well as by improving the layout and design of the ER. An example of this is the recent expansion of the ER at the Huntsville Hospital, which has helped to reduce wait times for patients.

In addition, it is important to ensure that there is a coordinated effort between the different healthcare providers in the region. This can be done by establishing a regional health care strategy, which can help to ensure that patients receive the care that they need in a timely and efficient manner.

While there is no single solution to the problem of ER wait times, it is clear that there are a number of strategies that can be implemented to improve the situation. By working together, we can ensure that our healthcare system is able to meet the needs of our patients and provide them with the care that they need.