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## **Brooklyn Hospital Center plans \$33M emergency department upgrade**

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is planning a \$32.7 million modernization and expansion of its emergency department.

About \$25.2 million of the project's cost will be funded through a grant from the state Health Department, while about \$7.5 million will be funded with the hospital's existing cash equity, according to a certificate-of-need filing. The project is expected to create greater flexibility and utility of treatment rooms in order to reduce severe congestion and long wait times. A third CT scanner for the hospital, to be located in the emergency department, also will be added.

"With this expansion, we will add not only square footage but also a more supportive environment for patients and family members as well as caregivers and staff," said John Gupta, executive vice president and chief strategy officer.

Total emergency-department visits increased to 74,778 in 2017 from 67,782 in 2012, or 10.3% over the period, the center reported in its filing. On average, patients wait four hours from the time they enter to the time a decision is made to admit them. It then takes an average of eight hours for an inpatient room to become available.

The existing 15,560-square-foot facility was designed to accommodate as many as 46,680 visits a year. The project is expected to expand the department to 22,780 square feet.

Along with addressing patient volume, the expansion project will focus on better preparedness for disasters and mass-casualty events and space for patient navigators to support patients who traditionally use the insured through government programs.

Construction will be phased to eliminate disruption, Gupta said. It is expected to be completed within 24 months.