

Ontario Stroke Network  
Stroke Rehabilitation Best Practice Initiatives Environmental Scan

Organization	Contact Persons	Name of Initiative	Program Offering	Date Implemented	Team members involved	Outcomes to Date	Success Factors	Lessons Learned	Resources	Future Plans
Toronto Stroke Networks and GTA Rehab Network	Beth Linkewich, Jacquie Willems, Shelley Sharp, Nicola Tahair	Stroke Flow Initiative: Toronto Central and GTA LHINs	<p>Working with GTA Rehab Network, the three Toronto Stroke Networks reviewed the data from the DAD, NRS and Toronto-area E-stroke Rehab Referral databases to assess current patient flow. Evidence and data on performance was also reviewed to determine best practice and optimal rehabilitation access for patients post mild, moderate and severe strokes.</p> <p>The evidence was compelling: earlier admission to rehabilitation improves clinical outcomes and reduces ALC days. Furthermore, acute stroke units with specialized teams achieve earlier rehabilitation referral and reduced acute lengths of stay (LOS). The Networks concluded that targeting earlier admission to rehabilitation for severe stroke patients could save significant acute care days each year through reduced LOS and ALC days.</p> <p>Based on the evidence, the GTA Rehab and Stroke Networks recommended reallocation of resources in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhance outpatient rehabilitation to accommodate more people with mild strokes—freeing up inpatient capacity for severe strokes</li> <li>• increase access to high intensity inpatient stroke rehab for patients with severe stroke with targets for admission volumes and ALOS based on stroke RPG's</li> <li>• increase access to best practice stroke care in acute and rehab programs including access to stroke units, dedicated staffing and increased therapy intensity in rehab</li> </ul>	2011	Dr M. Bayley, Beth Linkewich, Shelley Sharp, Jacqueline Willems, Charissa Levy, Nicola Tahair, Dr R. Swartz.	The Networks are currently working with the LHINs and acute care, rehabilitation and CCAC representatives from across the GTA to determine the organization-specific impacts of the proposed changes and implementation strategies.				