

Ontario Stroke Network
Stroke Rehabilitation Best Practice Initiatives Environmental Scan

Organization	Contact Person	Name of Initiative	Program Offering	Date Implemented	Outcomes to Date	Success Factors	Lessons Learned	Resources	Future Plans
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, C4 Acute Stroke Unit	Jeff Upshaw, Patient Care Manager (C4 Acute Stroke Unit); Beth Linkewich, Regional Director (North & East GTA Stroke Network)	Implementation of 7-days/week therapy coverage (Occupational Therapy, OT; Physiotherapy, PT; and Speech-Language Pathology, S-LP)	Acute stroke unit care offering 7-days per week therapy coverage (OT, PT, and S-LP)	July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring of new OT, PT, and S-LP staff for 7-days per week therapy coverage. With the acute stroke unit and 7-days/week therapy coverage, preliminary analysis shows an increase in therapy (OT, PT, and S-LP) assessments initiated within 48 hours of hospital admission and an increase in AlphaFIM® Instrument completion on day 3 (post hospital admission). Preliminary analysis also shows a decrease in the average LOS by 3 days. <p>Perceived benefits from staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced communication between staff and patients (e.g., as there is a tendency for more family members to visit patients on the weekends, there is more communication between staff and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and commitment from senior leadership Guidance and support from the North & East GTA Stroke Network. Secured funding to hire OT, PT, and S-LP staff for 7-day/week therapy coverage. Support from professional practice leaders during the hiring process. Support and involvement from front line staff (e.g., clinicians were involved in hiring and scheduling processes, etc.) The ability to trial a dedicated PA (program assistant) for the acute stroke unit. 	A dedicated PA and PSP (personal service partner) would provide further support for staff on the acute stroke unit. A PSP would assist with meal set-up, etc., which would free up more time for nursing staff to provide direct patient care.	<p>Funds to enable the hiring of new OT, PT, and S-LP staff for 7-days/week therapy coverage.</p> <p>Out of 36 beds, 16 beds have been dedicated to stroke patients.</p> <p>Current allied health staffing for the acute stroke unit are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 FTE PT 2.5 FTE OT 1.5 FTE SLP <p>Part-time OT and PT staff have been working 9 consecutive days with 5 days off for 2 weekends per month.</p> <p>Full-time OT and PT staff have been working 1 weekend per month.</p> <p>The full-time S-LP</p>	If funding is available, funds will be requested for the hiring of a PA and PSP for the acute stroke unit.

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					<p>family members).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities for staff to provide education to patients and families • More opportunity to provide a comprehensive assessment and treatment plan for OT, PT, and S-LP. • Increased ability to progress the patient's mobility and functional status • Enhanced communication between staff (e.g., as staff on the weekends also work on the weekdays, there is more comprehensive reporting of the patient's status during rounds; there is also more follow-up regarding patient safety concerns that occurred on the weekends). • Increased efficiency in discharging patients (e.g., as therapists can initiate the rehabilitation 			<p>has been working from Wednesday to Sunday and the part-time S-LP has been working from Monday to Friday.</p>	

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					<p>application on the weekends, the application process is more efficient)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With therapy on the weekends, it makes the caseload on Mondays more manageable for the therapists. 				