

# COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #8

## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**DATE:** May 7, 2020 | 8:00 – 9:00 AM

DISCLAIMER: The information in this document represents a high-level summary to capture the discussion at the point of time of the meeting and is NOT general guidance.

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**GROUPS REPRESENTED:** More than 130 people joined the call with representation from CorHealth Cardiac Leadership Council, CorHealth Vascular and Stroke Leadership Chairs, Ministry of Health, Ontario Base Hospital-MAC, Ontario STEMI Network, Cardiac Medical Directors, Program Administrators, Cath Lab Medical Directors, EP Medical Directors, interventional cardiologists, and cardiac surgeons.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Chris Simpson was unable to join this morning due to an unexpected schedule conflict. He has agreed to attend a future COVID-19 Cardiac Forum meeting
- It is expected that Ontario Health and Dr. Simpson will provide a information to the media today at noon, focused on the release of the report from the Ontario Health COVID-19 Health System Response Oversight Table
- The report is a 'how to' guidance document related to health system activity ramp up, and includes tools and resources
- It is anticipated that the Command Table and MOH will amend the March 15, 2020 memorandum to Ontario Health and Hospitals: *Ramping Down Elective Surgeries and Other Non-Emergent Activities*.

## COVID-19 Epidemiology Update

- Dr. H. Wijeyesundera provided an update on the COVID-19 epidemiological data for Ontario. The data suggests that we have likely passed the peak of COVID-19 in the province.
- The issues that continue to pervade long-term care were highlighted.

## Cardiac Reporting to Support COVID-19 Planning

- G. Oakes provided an update on this week's cardiac report.

- Valve surgery, CABG + Valve, and TAVI activities have increased compared to last week. However, compared to the previous year, all cardiac activity continues to be reduced.

### **COVID-19 Non-Invasive Cardiac Testing**

- Dr. T. Sanfilippo shared insight related to ECHO activity during COVID-19, noting that similar trends are likely reflected in other non-invasive cardiac diagnostics
- The data shared shows a significant reduction in ECHO activity compared to last year. A result of this is a huge backlog of deferred studies (e.g. ranges from the hundreds to thousands at different sites).
- Memo #11: *Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Triageing Echocardiographic Services During COVID-19* was released last week, intended to provide guidance to sites around the triaging of those deferred cases, and to encourage a consistent approach among sites across the province.
- Decisions around when and how to triage deferred cases is dependent upon direction from the MOH, as well as decision-making at the hospital level.
- The recent CJC article (April 2020) entitled *Safe Reintroduction of Cardiovascular Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidance from North American Society Leadership* includes guidance and principles to support triage decision-making around cardiac CT and MRI. This article was circulated to Forum members.

### **Cardiac Work Streams Update**

- A Cardiac Rehab Forum is scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2020.
- The next Heart Failure Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2020.

### **Ambulatory Activity for Cardiac Rehabilitation and Heart Failure**

- A survey was conducted by Dr. Paul Oh to inform the state of cardiac rehab during COVID-19; 73 of 180 programs were surveyed. A significant proportion (nearly 40%) of cardiac rehab programs are no longer offering services, due to staffing primarily. There is interest in using virtual care but there are limited resources and knowledge on how to implement.
- A survey was conducted to inform heart failure clinic use; 19 heart function clinics were surveyed. Heart failure clinic referrals have decreased, and ED visits and hospitalizations for heart failure are down significantly compared to last year.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Next meeting of the group will be held Thursday, May 14, 2020, from 8:00 – 9:00 am
- If group members have any questions/comments, please email to [Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca](mailto:Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca), for inclusion at future meetings