

# COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #19

## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**DATE:** September 16, 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:** Over 100 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

#### Optimizing Care Through COVID-19 Pandemic Transition Scenarios

- Dr. Chris Simpson provided an overview the draft document '*Optimizing Care Through COVID-19 Pandemic Transmission Scenarios*' developed by the Ontario Health COVID-19 Health System Response Oversight Table on Pandemic Transition Scenarios.
  - The document is expected to be released late September.
- This document outlines high-level recommendations to all sectors using a nuanced regional and sub-regional approach. High-level recommendations apply to five COVID-19 transmission scenarios, which were adapted from the WHO's transmission scenarios. The document includes a Placemat for ease of readability and utilizes a "dimmer-switch" model rather than a complete shut-down of services. Additionally, there are examples of regional collaboration, new partnerships, and virtual care innovations developed in the first wave of the pandemic. The goal of this document is to maintain, and in some cases, accelerate care to support patients through the continuum of care and address the backlog during COVID-19.
- *Discussion:*
  - There was voiced support for the recommendations supporting the continuum of care, and agreement that the "dimmer-switch" model allows for increased attention to the patient care experience.
  - While no specific solutions are offered in the document on concerns with the start of school and the effects on health care workers with children, Dr. Simpson acknowledged this as a limitation on maintaining/accelerating care.
  - It was stated that as the pandemic continues, inequalities may be

- exasperated as low prevalence areas see less of an impact on the health care workforce. It was felt that creative solutions, though often difficult to operationalize, could be utilized to address concerns, e.g. funding, HHR.
- Creative solutions of balancing COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients was discussed; e.g. while it may be difficult to operationalize creating COVID-free hospitals to maintain emergency surgery, especially in smaller areas across the province, this could be applied to areas of with high concentration of hospitals.
  - Robust and timely communication led by the subregion/regional leadership was brought forward as an important way to ensure all stakeholders remain aware of the stage/scenario that various areas of the province are in.
    - Dr. Simpson acknowledged there is opportunity for CorHealth to be involved in and collaborate more with the R5 Table (Regional Table)
  - Discussion around long-term care homes included impact of reduced capacity and potential HHR implications and that it was felt the sector is now more prepared with IPAC and PPE.
  - The decrease in STEMI volumes during the first wave was discussed; it was brought forward that there has been an increase in patient trust and public appreciation that Emergency Departments/Hospitals are safe places to be during a pandemic. Additionally, it was discussed that the sector is still waiting to see the consequences of the decrease in STEMI volumes.
  - It was felt that this time is crucial to focus on appropriateness and seriously reevaluating low value care given the need to prioritize patients. It was stated that clinical judgement and relying on clinical leadership and principles of prioritization are key to success as pressures rise.

## OTHER UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

- Natalie Gierman from Heart and Stroke Foundation to attend a future Cardiac Forum meeting to discuss key findings and results from Patients & PWLE survey
- Jana Jeffrey shared that two CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memos have been updated Updates have made to the following CorHealth COVID 19 Cardiac Memos:
  - Cardiac Memo #2: [Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Provision of Hospital Echocardiography Services During COVID-19](#)
  - Cardiac Memo #5: [#5 Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Provision of Non hospital Echocardiography Services During COVID-19](#)
- J. Jeffrey shared that the new Cardiac Memo #15 is available on the CorHealth COVID-19 Resource Centre on [Triageing Cardiac Imaging Services During COVID-19](#)
- Next meeting of the group: Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 8:00 – 9:00 am
- If group members have any questions or comments, please email [Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca](mailto:Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca), and they will be included for discussion at a future meeting