

COVID-19 Vascular Forum Meeting #2

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

DATE: April 1, 2020, 9:00-10:00am

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.

GROUPS REPRESENTED: Vascular Leadership Council, Clinical Advisory Committee (vascular members), Vascular Surgery Program & Medical Leadership from 20 hospitals with vascular programs, Vascular Interventional Radiology Program & Medical Leadership from 20 hospitals with vascular programs, CitiCall Ontario, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Ministry of Health, CorHealth Ontario

HIGHLIGHTS

System Planning Updates

- All meeting materials and related resources continue to be posted and updated on the [CorHealth COVID-19 Resource Centre](#)
- In follow-up to the discussion from the March 25th Forum, further information from the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) was provided on physician cross-credentialing:
 - The OHA indicated that they are developing, together with the Ministry of Health (MOH), recommendations to expedite usual physician cross-credentialing protocols. CorHealth will post information received from the OHA on the Resource Centre.
 - **Question:** *How should expenses be submitted/documented by providers?*
 - Hospitals will be responsible for submitting COVID-related expenses and therefore providers should track and manage expenses using existing hospital expense-related practices and policies
 - The MOH/Ontario Health (OH) will provide further information when available.

- **Question:** *Is cross-credentialing/the movement of providers mandatory or voluntary?*
 - It is currently voluntary and it is more likely that patients would move around the province rather than providers, but agencies are trying to put policies in place now should this be required in the future.
- Ontario Health has released a guidance document – [OH Guidance - Clinical Triage Protocol for Major Surge in COVID Pandemic \(March 28, 2020\)](#)
 - CorHealth can arrange for Dr. James Downar (The Ottawa Hospital) to speak to these resources if there is interest from the Forum participants.

CorHealth COVID-19 Vascular Memo#1: Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Managing Vascular Surgery During COVID-19

- Dr. Nagpal reviewed the Vascular Memo developed from discussion during the March 25th vascular forum meeting
- The Memo can be found here: [Memo#1: Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Managing Vascular Surgery During COVID-19](#)

Capacity Planning During & Post-COVID-19

- Mirna Rahal, Sr. Director, CorHealth reviewed public health unit-level information about the impact of COVID-19 on hospital bed utilization and the potential impact on expected vascular urgent/emergent hospital bed requirements.
- She also reviewed the estimated impact on vascular wait list volumes related to postponement of non-essential vascular activity.
- Forum participants shared agreement that this information will be valuable particularly when planning for resumption of full vascular activity post-COVID.
 - **Question:** *Is the data in real-time for the vascular bed counts?*
 - CorHealth is using DAD data for the total hospital bed counts and other data sources to try and estimate the bed utilization of vascular patients
 - CorHealth is investigating availability of other data sources to provide real-time bed utilization of COVID-19 patients
 - **Question:** *How are step-down beds captured in this work?*
 - For now, step-down beds are captured as ICU beds in the DAD data.

Telehealth/Virtual Care Resources and Supports

- CorHealth has posted resources on the COVID-19 Resource Page to help support the use of telehealth/virtual care, including changes to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Telehealth/virtual care information is available here: [Repository of Virtual Care Resources](#)
- Dr. Heather Cox noted that the OMA would be sending out a member update about recent changes to telemedicine/virtual care OHIP billing for providers (i.e. billing for phone call appointments).
 - CorHealth will also post this update to the COVID-19 Resource Page.

Questions/Open Discussion

- Forum participants shared updates on the current status of in-hospital activities in their regions
- Themes included:
 - Concerns over the use of PPE / different approaches to use
 - Most clinic consultations are occurring with use of virtual platforms
 - Vascular OR time is minimal, and, in many hospitals, vascular services is quiet. However, many forum participants suspect that an increase in COVID patients will occur in the coming weeks.
- Many participants felt that the open dialogue portion of the Forum is most useful to share information about how programs are managing
- It was also noted that the Forum will be particularly useful following the active COVID-19 period to maintain open communication for the management of the backlog of elective patient procedures that had to be delayed/cancelled

NEXT STEPS

CorHealth to:

- Post / distribute meeting summary notes
- Update the CorHealth COVID-19 Resource Centre
- Schedule the next COVID-19 Vascular Forum meeting in two weeks (April 15th 2020; 9-10am), unless the need for an additional meeting next week is made apparent

Forum Participants:

- **Please submit your requests for discussion topics, questions and concerns for inclusion in the next forum. Submissions can be sent to Mike Setterfield at Mike.Setterfield@corhealthontario.ca**