

Stroke Care Contingency Plans for Toronto

APRIL 2021

Provision of specialized stroke care remains an essential service to optimize recovery for persons with stroke

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment in sustaining stroke care and supporting the recovery of stroke patients in Toronto.

The Toronto Stroke Networks (TSNs) are circulating the system-wide contingency plans for stroke services, developed in collaboration with stakeholders to support stroke care as an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The contingency plans cross the continuum and include: hyperacute, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, and outpatient rehabilitation (see attached *Cross System Stroke Care Contingency Plans for Toronto*).

Contingency plans reflect the following levels: conventional care, local contingency care, system level contingency care, and crisis care.

- Movement between these levels depends on specific triggers in the system
- Each level outlines specific action items for stakeholders
- If system-level contingencies are no longer adequate to maintain access to stroke care services, crisis mode is triggered

For contingency planning to be effective, organizations and teams need to advise the TSNs when experiencing outbreaks and/or changes to service provision. Please indicate impact and implications for stroke patient care and consider the following:

Hyperacute	<p>Are there any factors impeding your ability to provide hyperacute stroke services or have you identified any significant risks in providing this service?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact for stroke patients? • What is your local contingency plan and anticipated duration?
Acute	<p>Are there any factors impeding your ability to provide access to best practice stroke unit care and/or timely repatriation of patients from Regional Stroke Centres?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact for stroke patients? • What is your local contingency plan and anticipated duration?
Inpatient	<p>What is your wait time for IP stroke rehab admission? (time from discharge from acute care to IP rehab admission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has this changed in the past 2 weeks? • What is the impact of this change for stroke patients? • What is your local contingency plan and anticipated duration?
Outpatient	<p>What is your wait time for OP stroke rehab? (time from inpatient acute/rehab discharge to first visit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has this changed in the past 2 weeks? • What is the impact of this change for stroke patients? Include changes in the following areas: type of care received, capacity to take on new patients, time of first appointment, number of visits, etc. Please be specific. • What is your local contingency plan and anticipated duration? <p>Note: Outpatient status and wait times are monitored every 2 weeks</p>

The TSNs will continue to evaluate the contingency plans throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Please provide any feedback for ongoing improvement. For further information or clarification about stroke care COVID-19 contingency plans, please connect with the Regional Directors of the TSNs: Beth Linkewich Beth.Linkewich@sunnybrook.ca, Nicola Tahair Nicola.Tahair@uhn.ca, or Fatima Quraishi Fatima.Quaraishi@unityhealth.to

For organizations experiencing an outbreak, or changes in stroke services, please contact Donna Cheung at donna.cheung@uhn.ca