

COVID- 19 Combined Stakeholder Forum

DATE: May 5, 2021, 4:00-5:00 PM

GROUPS REPRESENTED: Over 140 participants joined the call with representation from CorHealth Ontario and its Cardiac, Stroke, Vascular, Rehabilitation, Heart Failure clinical and administrative stakeholders, the Ontario Hospital Association, and the GTA Hospital COVID-19 IMS.

CHAIR:

- Dr. Tom Forbes, Co-Chair, CorHealth Clinical Advisory Committee

SPEAKERS:

- Michelle DiEmanuele, Sponsor, GTA COVID-19 Incident Management System Table
- Imtiaz Daniel, Chief Research Analyst, Ontario Hospital Association
- Brad Murphy (Sr. Manager), Health Services Branch Ministry of Health; Danielle Chanda-Goldring (Program Manager), Out of Country Prior Approval Program, Health Services Branch, Ministry of Health
- Deanna Wu, Director, Analytics & Reporting, CorHealth Ontario
- Dr. Paul Oh (Cardiovascular) and Dr. Mark Bayley (Stroke) Co-Chairs, COVID-19 Rehabilitation Forum

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

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Recognition of the work happening at the front line and demand on health human resources.
- COVID-19 Current State from the GTA IMS Table provided an update on the demands in key hot spot areas requiring the transfer of patients between regions.
- COVID-19 Daily Impact on Hospital and ICU Reporting showed high utilization of critical care resources in key areas; COVID-19 patients continuing to require ICU and ventilators.
- Education and awareness of existing Ministry of Health Out of Country Prior Approval Program. Discussion on ensuring an Ontario first approach, with concerns about broad application of this program without addressing key criteria (including equality & equity of access, selection of out of province centres, performance measures etc); if this program was to be leveraged, it would be supportive function to help clear the backlog as appropriate.
- CorHealth COVID-19 data presentation showing regional differences in ramping down of procedures, as well as a drop in referrals across the province aligning with the lockdown and is expected to increase once the system opens up as per previous trends.
- Cardiovascular and Stroke Rehabilitation Forum provided an opportunity for sharing activities, practices, and strategies to maintain care where possible.
 - Effective, safe rehabilitation is possible during COVID-19. Strategies to maintain these services helps support patients along the continuum and help decrease burden on acute care services.

KEY ISSUES/ACTIONS

	Overview of Issue	Action/Consideration
1.	<p>Recovery will look different from previous waves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data showing long tail end of Wave 3 with gradual improvements. • Prolonged impact of strained ICU capacity and human health resources. • Will need to consider impacts to clear the backlog and provide appropriate care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CorHealth to continue to monitor ramp down of non-urgent surgeries and procedures across the province. • CorHealth to alert Ontario Health and include item on future Forum agenda for discussion.

<p>2.</p>	<p>Patients hesitant to seek care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More acutely presenting patients who are waiting at home for prolonged period of time, or who are not presenting at all to healthcare system. • Occuring system wide (beyond cardiovascular and stroke). • Efforts to creatively and innovatively ensure that patients continue to seek care when needed (based on observations from Ontario cardiologists). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CorHealth to alert Ontario Health and include item on future Forum agenda for discussion.
<p>3.</p>	<p>Health Human Resources burden and burnout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the system moves to expand or sustain ICU capacity, considerations to be made about the staffing required given the current and sustained burden of HHR. • Ensure that if a program is unable to staff a bed that the hospital reports it to CCSO to appropriately account for available ICU beds. • Many programs utilizing innovative staffing models to support HHR burnout and capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CorHealth to alert Ontario Health and include item on future Forum agenda for discussion. • CorHealth continue to provide information on ICU capacity as required.
<p>4.</p>	<p>Regional differences in level of ramp down of non-urgent surgeries and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some regions more pronounced in their level of ramp down. • The definition of elective vs urgent/emergent care varies across the province. • Large volumes of life and limb cases (not elective) could account for some of this variation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CorHealth to alert Ontario Health and include item on future Forum agenda for discussion. • CorHealth Memo providing guidance for prioritiation of cardiac, stroke, and vascular patients available here on the Resource Centre

Next Steps and Wrap Up

- Next meeting of the group will be held on Wednesday May 12, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- If group members have any questions or comments, please email to Emma.Jowett@corhealthontario.ca