

COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #13

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

DATE: June 18, 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.

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

Ontario Health Memo; Recommendations for Regional Health Care Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Outpatient Care, Primary Care, and Home & Community Care (Dr. Chris Simpson)

- Dr. Chris Simpson provided an overview of the recommendations from Ontario Health regarding Outpatient Care, Primary Care, and Home & Community Care
- The document outlines high-level principles that should underpin decision-making, regardless of setting, during the COVID-19 pandemic; detailed planning, is to be completed by sector-specific individuals
- The recommendations outlined within this document, include: maximizing virtual care; comprehensive infection prevention & control; PPE availability; health human resources assessed; delivery of services supporting the full continuum of care; regular communication; monitoring of COVID-19 levels; and ethical prioritization strategies
- Dr. Simpson highlighted the opportunity for moving the integration dial, by encouraging collaboration and partnerships across other stakeholders in the system
- Open Forum Discussion:
- *Locally, are others facing challenges in terms of encouraging patients to come in to health facilities, due to anxiety as a result of COVID-19? How are others dealing with this?*
 - There is the need for a communication strategy to reassure patients & clients that they are visiting a well-managed facility with IPAC protocol; there is the

- opportunity for Ontario Health / MOH to develop this.
- UHN has developed an app that streamlines activities and provides efficiencies from a clinical perspective. Going forward 50-60% of visits will continue to be virtual for the HF clinic program, while there are many elderly and frail patients that may need to come in, accompanied by a caregiver.
- *Virtual Care needs to be a part of the long-term strategy; are there discussions by Ontario Health regarding provincial investment into infrastructure & resources*
 - Recognize the need for these discussions and expect there will be the opportunity for these discussions over the coming months.
- *Has there been discussion around providing support to community clinics, regarding accessing PPE and the potential for group rates to reduce costs?*
 - There is a provincial table on PPE and there is a very sophisticated ethical distribution strategy, including health sector and non-health care sector. The hope will be that costs are not downloaded to individual patients but carried more centrally instead.

Cardiac Memo #13: Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Resuming Echocardiographic Services During COVID-19 (Dr. Anthony Sanfilippo)

- Dr. Anthony Sanfilippo presented recommendations for resuming echocardiography services and outlined the challenge of modifying service provision in a manner that complies with public health requirements, while engaging the backlog of deferred exams
- Some key highlights from the recommendations include, critical triaging of deferred examinations; consultation with referring physicians; collaboration between community and hospital-based facilities; and developing technical interfaces to share examinations and reports
- Open Forum Discussion:
- *Is TEE considered to be an AGMP?*
 - Hospital IPAC teams have had variable assessments of this, and this remains somewhat controversial. It is suggested that CorHealth brings this forward for further discussion with the MOH.

Cardiac Memo #14: Recommendations for an Approach to Resuming In-Person Outpatient Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Services in Ontario (Dr. Paul Oh)

- Dr. Paul Oh provided an overview of Cardiac Memo #14 (released on June 17th), regarding an approach to resuming in-person outpatient cardiac rehabilitation services.
- The number or duration of in-person assessments will be limited around 25% for the foreseeable future, with exercise and counselling limited on-site.

Updates to Weekly Cardiac Activity Report (Garth Oakes)

- Garth Oakes provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Cardiac COVID Activity Reports, which include changes to: (1) Weekly activity pages, (2) Provincial graphs that compare last year to this year, and (3) Table that compares activity to last week and the same time last year.

OTHER UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

- This week's cardiac report was circulated to Forum members
- Next meeting of the group will be held Thursday, June 25, 2020, from 8:00 – 9:00 am
- If group members have any questions or comments, please email to Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca, and they will be included for discussion at future meeting