

Toronto Stroke Networks' News

MARCH 1ST, 2012

Common Core Elements of Stroke Care: Work Plan Update

HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT

The Toronto Stroke Flow Initiative involves the reorganization of acute stroke services (dedicated stroke units) and an earlier referral and admission to rehab. The Toronto Stroke Networks (TSNs) have developed recommendation guides to assist organizations with prioritization and implementation of the Stroke Flow and Canadian Stroke Strategy Best Practice Recommendations (CSS BPRs).

A dedicated group of nursing leaders from 15 acute and rehabilitation organizations (across the GTA) have been meeting monthly since December 2011 to collectively develop common core elements for new/existing processes of stroke care to create a standard of care across the GTA.

The TSNs have been leading the coordination and facilitation of these meetings to ensure support and alignment with the Stroke Flow Initiative. The longer term intention is to have the ongoing collaboration lead and be driven by its stroke nursing leaders.

MEETING INTENTIONS

The main purpose of these meetings is to **build standards of care across sites and across the care continuum using a collaborative process that involves nursing leaders and their interprofessional stroke teams.**

Other intentions include:

- To ensure consistent awareness of the Canadian Stroke Strategy Best Practice Recommendations and the Stroke Flow Initiative
- To increase the understanding of each other's work across the care continuum
- To provide opportunities for leadership, education, resource sharing, and networking.

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, the group has collectively developed common core elements for both acute care and rehabilitation. These common core elements not only reflect the 2010 CSS BPRs, but also align with recommendations put forth by the Stroke Flow Task Group and as such, reflect the priorities clinicians across the GTA feel should be our basis of care.

Through APN leadership, interprofessional stroke teams across the GTA have been reviewing and providing feedback on these common core elements. Feedback on acute common core elements have been shared during our February 24th meeting and feedback on the rehabilitation common core elements will be shared during our March 23rd meeting.

Discussions and feedback from each meeting informs the content for the next meeting, and as each organization is at a different level of development and implementation, content is catered to meet the needs of the group as a whole. From these conversations, key priorities for local implementation planning will be identified. To date, the experiences and insight shared by organizations who have already rolled out best practice recommendations, has been extremely valuable in informing the planning and discussions for other organizations.

PROCESSES OF CARE: NOT JUST CARE PATHWAYS

Building on the iterative nature of this work, we want to reflect the intentions and wider possibilities for implementation of care processes. As such, we have shifted our language in communications to reflect the common core elements of care and not exclusively care pathways.

NEXT STEPS

Future meetings will be devoted to information sharing on implementation and dissemination. This will include identifying key priorities and/or themes for organizations (what is needed to support the implementation of common core elements at a local and systems level (across sites and across the care continuum), and how this GTA stroke nursing leaders group can continue to support this work.

Beyond our meeting dates, the TSNs hope that this GTA Stroke nursing leaders group will continue to meet, act as a resource for each other, and lead this work with their interprofessional stroke teams. The TSNs intend to support and collaborate with this group as needed.

In addition, the group was informed by the TSNs' Regional Education Coordinators (RECs) about how the implementation of these common core elements could align with and inform the Knowledge Translation (KT) Strategy related to Stroke Flow. The RECs are responsible for developing the KT Strategy for the TSNs to support the implementation of the best practice recommendations. As such, a three part plan for implementation was reviewed by one of the TSNs' RECs during our February 24th meeting. During this meeting it was agreed by the group that this common core elements work (early communications between APNs and their interprofessional stroke teams) will align well with the TSNs' KT Strategy.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We understand that there are competing priorities within each organization and appreciate your involvement in this group thus far. Furthermore, we value your feedback during this process and encourage your continued leadership and input in the development of this work.

If you have any questions or concerns, please forward them to Sylvia Quant (sylvia.quant@sunnybrook.ca). Again, we thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to our next meetings/discussions.

Best regards,
Sylvia Quant, Jocelyne McKellar, and Donna Cheung
Toronto Stroke Networks