

2020-21 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



Toronto Stroke
Networks

• Leadership • Innovation • Collaboration



OVERVIEW



We have experienced exceptional changes in the past year in how we provide stroke care in our region. This 2020-21 Annual Achievement Report from the Toronto Stroke Networks (TSNs) highlights how we have come together as a system to engage in collaborative planning to navigate these changes and continue providing quality stroke care in Toronto.

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DATA SNAPSHOT

REGIONAL STROKE CENTRES (RSCs)



1089 code stroke transports in Toronto to RSCs

(TPS, 2020-21)



204 Walk-in stroke transports to RSCs

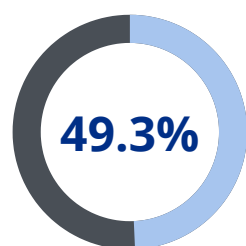
(TPS, 2020-21)



190 Patients received tPA, and 371 Patients received EVT

(RSCs, 2020-21)

ACUTE HOSPITALS



Proportion of patients treated on a designated acute stroke unit

(CIHI, 2019-20)

REHABILITATION

1,014

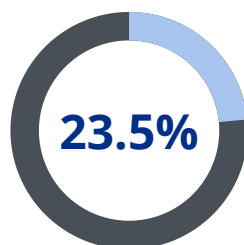
Patients accessing high intensity rehab from acute care

(NRS, 2020-21)

134

Patients referred and accepted to outpatient rehab from acute care

(E-Stroke, 2020-21)



Proportion of patients accessing home-based rehab from acute care and inpatient rehab

(HCD, 19-20)

SECONDARY PREVENTION



90.0%

Proportion of TIA or non-disabling stroke patients discharged directly from the ED with a referral to secondary prevention services

(CIHI, 2019-20)

3,621 TIA/stroke ED admissions to acute care hospitals

(CIHI, 2019-20)

THE TSNs TEAM

Over the past year, our team has grown in size and several members have moved to new roles within the Toronto Stroke Networks!

North & East GTA Stroke Network

Beth Linkewich
Kathy Golinopoulos
Lauren Bechard
Sandy Lyeo
Tina Sahota
Yasmin Visram

Toronto West Stroke Network

Nicola Tahair
Donna Cheung
Jocelyne McKellar
Michelle Mohan
Nandanie Amarsinghe

South East Toronto Stroke Network

Fatima Quraishi
Belinda Austria
Amanda Ratner
Julianne Cavanagh
Malaika Mvungi

THREE NETWORKS, ONE VISION

At the end of 2020 into early 2021, the South East Toronto Stroke Network was reintegrated into a shared workplan with the Toronto West Stroke Network and North and East GTA Stroke Network. We look forward to collaborating as a unified network across Toronto to support high-quality, best practice stroke care.

STEERING COMMITTEE

We would like to thank the following individuals for their support of the TSNs through participating on the TSNs Steering Committee in 2020-21:

Ilsa Blidner
Dr. Leanne Casaubon
Dr. Dan Cass
Kim Cook
Deborah Goldberg
Beth Likewich

Cherie Madden
Kim Partridge
Tina Smith
Dr. Rick Swartz
Nicola Tahair
Susan Woollard

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Work done on the TSNs initiatives in 2020-21 was guided by our Strategic Plan, and the following Strategic Directions:

- **Leadership:** Highly visible and responsive Networks within regional and provincial domains
- **Sustainable System Improvements:** A comprehensive and sustainable data set used to drive system improvement
- **Seamless Stroke Systems:** Equitable access to best practice stroke care across the continuum; shared ownership for patient and stroke system outcomes
- **Patient Experience:** Engaged and responsive Networks who partner with persons with stroke and family/caregivers in designing the system

All current initiatives are listed on the [Virtual Community of Practice](#). A few key initiatives are profiled below to highlight some of the work accomplished by the TSNs in 2020-21:

STANDARDS OF CARE

An annual self-assessment of cross-continuum performance on expected standards for quality stroke care to assist organizations in developing quality improvement plans and to inform system level planning



34 submissions



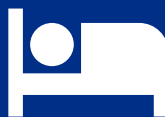
14 organizations

View system-wide performance on the [Virtual Community of Practice Performance Section](#)

STROKE BUNDLED CARE

Work is ongoing to support the development of an integrated stroke system in Toronto.

The TSNs **Geographical Hubs Model** uses population-level data to support alignment of stroke care capacity with demand



In 2020-21, **Automatic Acceptance** was expanded in acute and rehab settings. Eligible stroke patients (AlphaFIM® score of 40-80, referred ≤ 7 days post stroke) should receive an automatic bed offer for high-intensity rehab.

PATIENT & FAMILY EXPERIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE (PFEQ)

The Patient & Family Experience Questionnaire (PFEQ) is administered across the TSNs. Since being introduced in 2017, **387** PFEQ surveys have been completed.



Administered in **7** stroke prevention clinics and **3** outpatient rehab facilities.

In May 2020, a virtual version of the PFEQ was implemented capture patient experiences of stroke care in COVID-19.



PATIENT & FAMILY ADVISORS (PFAs)

In 2020-21, PFAs remained active and engaged in supporting the TSNs to improve stroke care through:

- Presenting at TSNs' Community Expos and Annual Collaborative
- Providing input for research projects where perspectives of persons' with stroke were needed
- Engaging in TSNs strategic planning
- Providing ongoing PFEQ feedback

Thank-you to the **15** active PFAs, and **11** Patient & Family Advisory Committee members!

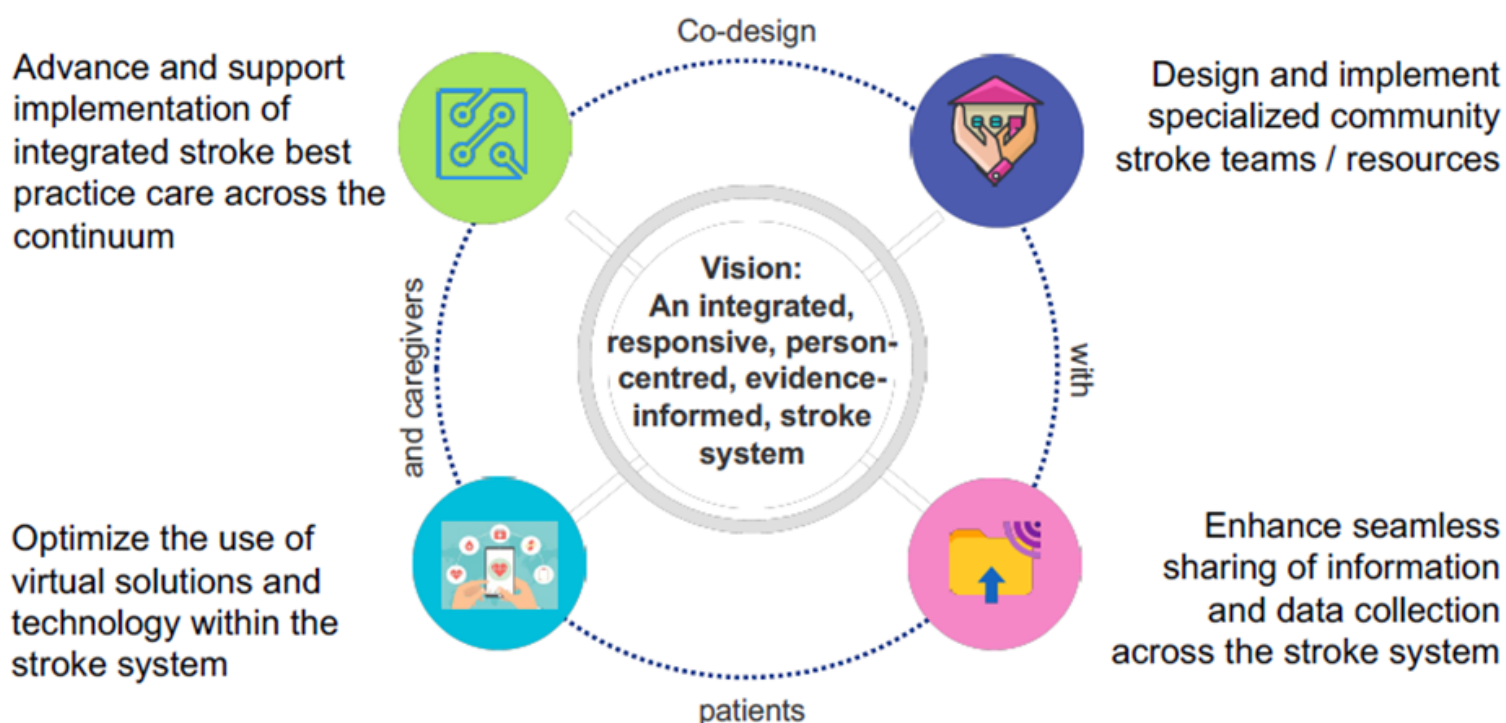


STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2020, the Toronto Stroke Networks participated in a collaborative process to map out our strategic plan for 2021-2024 to achieve equitable access and best outcomes for persons affected by stroke.

Our vision:

To create an integrated, responsive, person-centered, evidence-informed stroke system





COVID-19 RESPONSE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, so does our commitment to support stroke care providers and stakeholders in providing high-quality stroke care despite additional strain placed on health systems.

Early in the pandemic, the TSNs created **discipline-specific resources for providing stroke care in the COVID-19 pandemic**. In Winter 2020, the TSNs worked in collaboration with acute and rehabilitation organizations to develop **COVID-19 contingency plans**. These plans are still in place, and we continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on the flow of stroke patients throughout the stroke system. We are currently exploring how to support **virtual stroke care** in the pandemic and beyond.

LOOKING AHEAD

The TSNs would like to recognize the tireless work of our stakeholders in continuing to provide high-quality, equitable stroke care in Toronto even under the most challenging of circumstances. All the work highlighted in this report would not be possible without their partnership and continued commitment to improving the lives of persons with stroke.

We look forward to continuing several initiatives under our new 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and taking on new initiatives, including:

- Developing a Health Equity Framework for stroke care in Toronto
- Launching the Community Stroke Rehabilitation Competency Framework
- Expanded implementation of Cognitive Orientation to Occupational Performance
- Enhanced collection of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure

DATA SOURCES



Data highlighted in the 2020-21 Annual Achievement Report come from the following sources:

CIHI	Canadian Institutes for Health Information
DAD	Discharge Abstract Database
IDS	Integrated Decision Support
HCD	Home Care Database
NACRS	National Ambulatory Care Reporting System
NRS	National Rehabilitation Reporting System
RSCs	Regional Stroke Centres
TPS	Toronto Paramedic Services

More information on the TSNs, stroke care resources, and ongoing TSNs initiatives discussed in this report can be found at www.tostroke.com.

