

Building a Stroke Unit Toolkit..... A Phased-in Approach

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Background

Establishing stroke units as described in the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations¹ (CSBPR) and Ontario Quality-Based Procedures² for Stroke (QBP) is a complex process. For this reason, creation of a Stroke Unit Toolkit was felt to be timely. The Toolkit aims to support organizations in the creation of a stroke unit that aligns with the new stroke unit definition set out by the Ontario Stroke Network (OSN) in collaboration with Health Quality Ontario:

Geographical unit with identifiable co-located beds (e.g., 5A-7, 5A-8, 5A-9, 5A-10, 5A-11) that are occupied by stroke patients 75% of the time and have a dedicated inter-professional team with expertise in stroke care with the following professionals at a minimum nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathologist³.

Methods

- Formation of a provincial committee with representation from 3 models of stroke units: acute, rehabilitation and integrated
- Monthly committee meetings
- Development of the Toolkit framework
- Formation of subgroups for each section of the Toolkit framework
- Aligned with QBP and CSBPR for development of the framework
- Creation and distribution of a survey to organizations meeting the OSN stroke unit definition to gather real world experiences
- Survey results informed framework development and strategies which were integrated throughout the Toolkit
- Development of complementary resources: Contact List and Site Visit Guide

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Committee would like to acknowledge those sites that participated in completion of the stroke unit survey and piloted the Site Visit Guide; and Laura MacIsaac who assisted with the development of the survey and consolidation edits to the toolkit.

1. West GTA Stroke Network
2. Central East Stroke Network
3. Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network
4. Champlain Regional Stroke Network
5. Northwestern Ontario Regional Stroke Network
6. Northeastern Ontario Stroke Network
7. Stroke Services, Cardiac Care Network of Ontario
8. Stroke Network of Southeastern Ontario
9. Central South Stroke Network

Results

Stroke Unit Toolkit

The resulting Toolkit (Figure 1) focused on five key areas of stroke unit development:

1. Getting Buy-in
2. Preparation and Planning
3. Key Components of the Implementation
4. Key Elements of the Stroke Unit
5. Evaluation

Stroke Unit Contact List

Aggregate data obtained from the survey was organized into a Stroke Unit Contact List. The Contact List assists potential organizations to select stroke units visit sites that more closely reflect their needs.

Site Visit Guide

A Site Visit Guide (Figure 2) prepares “visitors” in terms of what questions to consider when conducting stroke unit site visits. Visitors are not limited to the questions in the Guide. The Guide has been designed to assist with prompting other meaningful questions.

The Site Visit Guide consists of questions pertaining to:

- Physical layout of the Stroke Unit Operations
- Interprofessional Team Composition
- Rounding
- Patients and Family Experience
- Hyperacute/Acute Stroke Process
- In-hospital Code Stroke process
- Screening and Assessment tools in use
- Discharge and Transition Management
- Documentation
- Staff Education

FIGURE 1: Toolkit Table of Contents

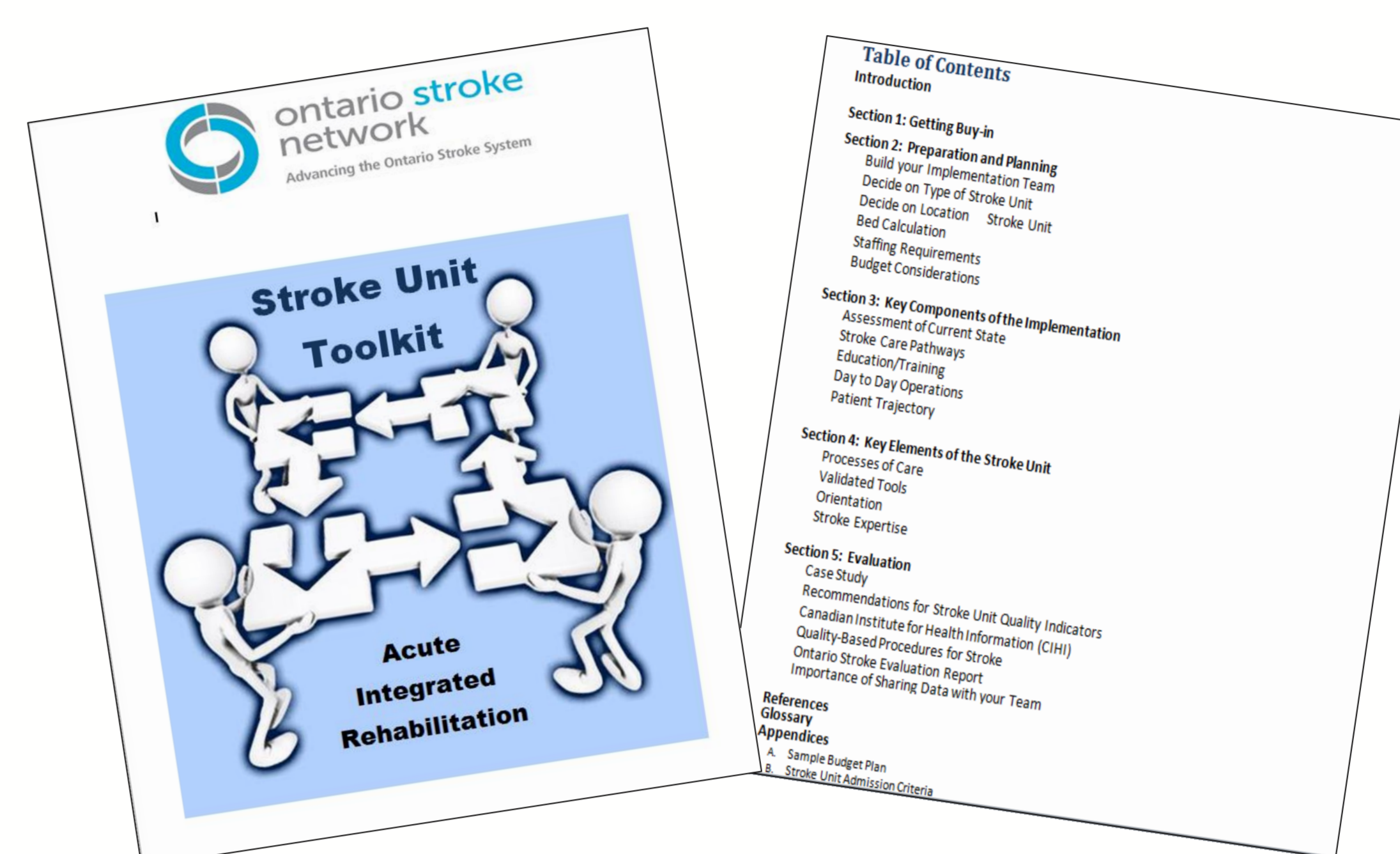
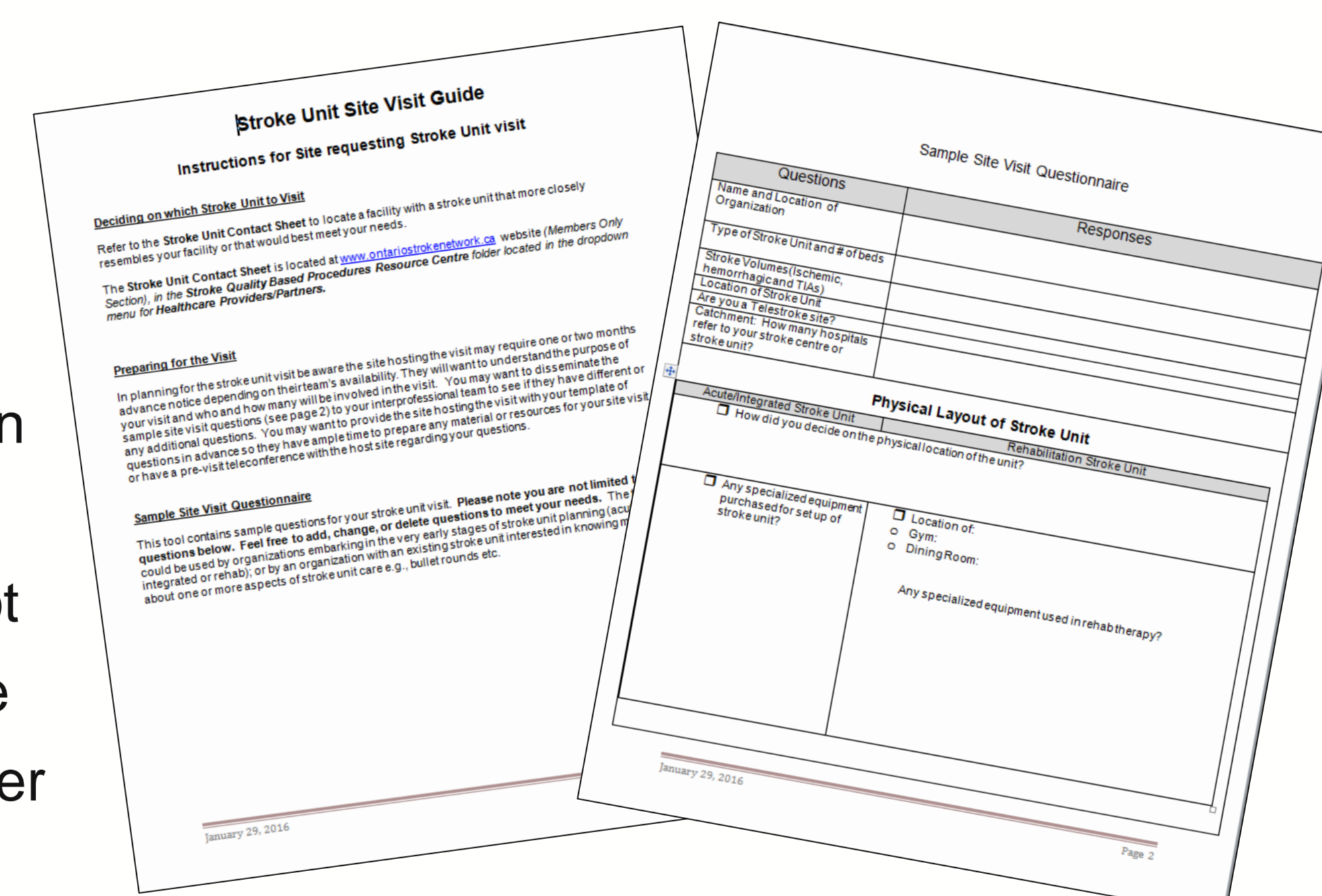


FIGURE 2: Site Visit Guide



“The Stroke Unit Visit Guide was a great tool which helped us prepare in advance for our site visit. In addition, the guide provided us with targeted questions to ask during the stroke unit visit and this ultimately, assisted us in our stroke unit planning process”
Amy deHueck,
Stroke Care Coordinator,
Joseph Brant Hospital

“This package is extremely comprehensive –there are a lot of questions that I would never have thought of asking”
Carla Dolanjski
District Stroke Coordinator
Timmins and District Hospital

REFERENCES

1. Casaubon et al. Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations: Acute Inpatient Stroke Care Guidelines. Update 2015. International Journal of Stroke 2016, Vol.11(2), 239-252.
2. Health Quality Ontario; Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Quality-based procedures: Clinical handbook for stroke (acute and postacute). Toronto: Health Quality Ontario; 2015 December. 148 p. Available from: <http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence/evidence-process/episodes-of-care/acc-community-stroke>.
3. Briefing Note: Stroke Unit Admission Indicator, April 16, 2014, Ontario Stroke Network.

Conclusions

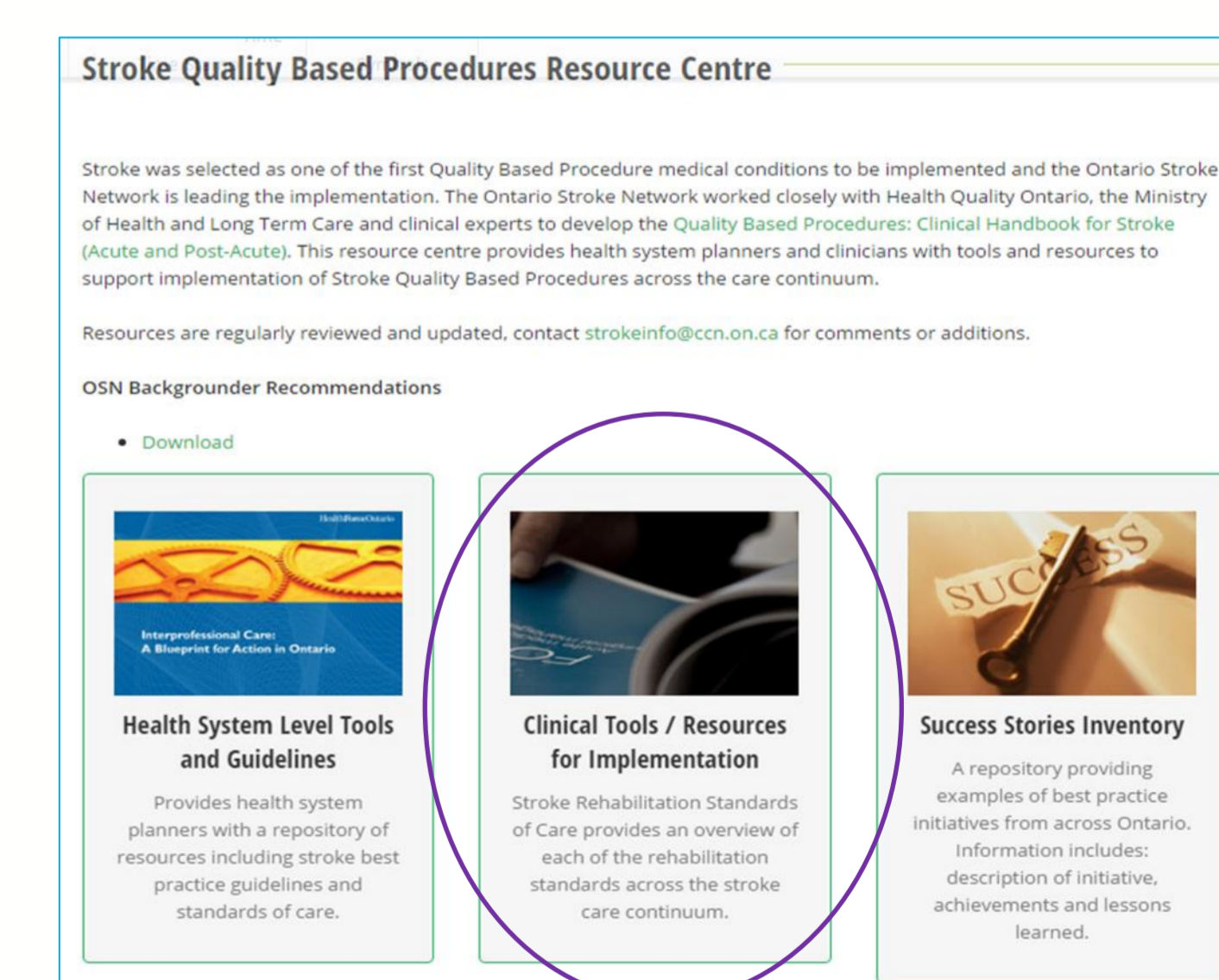
- The interprofessional, provincial working group effectively synthesized information to create a comprehensive, standardized and practical Toolkit to support establishment of stroke units in Ontario
- Survey results helped to formulate the provincial experience within the Toolkit by identifying additional stroke unit implementation strategies
- The Contact List and Site Visit Guide demonstrated to be beneficial resources to organizations during the development of the Toolkit

Next Steps

- Two to three organizations have agreed to pilot the Toolkit to assist with refinements and usability
- Processes have been determined for annual updates to the Stroke Unit Contact List
- Annual review to ensure alignment with CSBPR

Location of Stroke Unit Toolkit:

Go to www.ontariostrokenetwork.ca. Top toolbar select: HealthcareProviders/Partners >Stroke QBP Procedures Resource Centre >Clinical Tools/ Resources for Implementation >Acute >Stroke Unit Toolkit



As of April 1, 2016, the Ontario Stroke Network (OSN) and Cardiac Care Network of Ontario (CCN) have come together as a single entity to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to cardiac, vascular and stroke care in Ontario.