

2012-2013 Highlights Chatham-Kent District Stroke Centre



We are pleased to share that last year both the Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) and Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) clinics for possible cardiac and TIA/stroke events requiring urgent assessment and diagnosis offered at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance came under the umbrella of the C-K District Stroke Centre. Both clinics are offered on the same day and share the resources of the Internal Medicine physician, nursing and administrative support. We are proud to offer these services in addition to our four-bed integrated stroke unit.

Last April, a multi-disciplinary team from the District attended the Southwestern Ontario Rehabilitation Forum, "Time is Function: Making it Real" in Komoka. Attendance at this event sparked interest in meeting stroke best practices in our own Centre and conversation ensued around providing a more stimulating environment and maximizing treatment intensity and frequency to improve functional outcomes. Our passionate interdisciplinary group diligently worked to include creative group work (ex. Wii), homework programs and upper extremity toolkits for independent use by patients and families.

And while we cheered on our fellow Canadians competing in London, England our rehabilitation program hosted our own summer "Olympics" with many stroke survivors "competing" alongside other rehabilitation patients. The summer Olympics at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance were positively received. One stroke survivor was overheard saying, "That was more fun than physio!" Games included a relay, Wii bowling, soccer and trivia.



In June 2012, we held our ninth annual Stroke Garden Party themed, "It's a Jazzy Affair". The event was held on the riverbank outside of the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Chatham campus and enjoyed by local survivors of stroke and their families. Many staff and volunteers came together to ensure this event's success. Food, drink and jazz entertainment were on the agenda and both a stroke survivor and a caregiver spoke at the event.

With Quality Based Procedures on our radar, our DSC worked diligently to focus on proper coding for our stroke patients by participating in the Canadian Institute of Health Information's online training, "Different Codes for Different Strokes".

Prevention and stroke awareness remained a strong focus and with the help of our Communications Department we created a basic stroke signs and symptoms awareness presentation to repeat in sequence with other health information on the television screens located in the Emergency Department. We will continue to work diligently to reduce vascular disease in Chatham-Kent.

*Linda Butler,
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