

2012-2013 Highlights

Thames-Valley District Stroke Centre



This past year, the focus in Thames Valley has been on the work plan priorities of improved access to stroke prevention and rehabilitation. Quality Based funding has received significant attention.

The Urgent TIA Clinic at University Hospital saw 876 new patients in 2012-2013. Access to organized, post-acute primary and secondary prevention is limited in Thames Valley and potential initiatives have been discussed at the District Stroke Council meetings. In preparation for next steps, an updated community profile and environmental scan of available programming have been completed.

The Community Stroke Rehabilitation Team maintained its enhanced funding in 2012-2013 and saw 186 clients during this time. The past fiscal year was the first full year for the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Woodstock General Hospital (WGH) and the Access Office at Parkwood Hospital. To align with best practices, all inpatient rehabilitation programs within the district are developing strategies to improve rehabilitation intensity. WGH also launched its Intensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Program this year.

Health providers at acute hospitals with the largest stroke volumes in Thames Valley were approached to collect raw data for six months on recommended rehabilitation destinations to provide a snapshot of post-acute needs. The county hospitals chose to participate and data is still coming in. Preliminary results show that the top three recommendations are (in order): inpatient rehabilitation, Community Stroke Rehabilitation Team (with CCAC bridge), and supported housing. Not included are recommendations for stroke survivors who were not seen by rehabilitation staff; this population may have different needs.

A Community Engagement Workshop targeting Middlesex County was held in the fall of 2012. Providers from hospital, CCAC, CSRT, Health Centres, and community services attended. A Community Resource Booklet and a distribution list for information sharing were the outcomes. Future workshops will be held in the other regions of Thames Valley District.

Information on Quality Based Procedures has been shared with Thames Valley Hospital contacts. The Thames Valley District Stroke Coordinator will act as a resource and support for this initiative.

Looking ahead, work will continue on the following initiatives:

- Supporting the uptake and implementation of Quality-Based Programming
- Stroke prevention programming in alignment with the Integrated Vascular Blueprint
- Development of Support Groups
- The second of four Community Engagement Workshops
- ED to ED transfer algorithm

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