

Sarnia Lambton District Stroke Centre

Annual Report 2011 - 2012



At Bluewater Health, a clustered Acute Stroke Unit opened within Telemetry Medicine on February 1, 2011. In its first year of operation, more than 80% of patients admitted to the hospital with a diagnosis of stroke received care and cardiac monitoring on the unit. This resulted in a significant increase in the diagnosis and treatment of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation in this patient population. It also increased the consistency of best practice care, improved interprofessional communication, and enhanced patient transitioning across the organization. It was a very successful inaugural year!

The District Stroke Centre worked with the Medicine Program, physicians, and the Medical Records Department to improve accuracy of stroke within client records. Through a collaborative process, monthly case reviews, and participation in a Canadian Institute for Health Information online training course, *Different Codes for Different Strokes*, the coding of unspecified stroke was virtually eliminated.

At the other end of the stroke care continuum, we were also involved with the Stroke

Recovery Association of Sarnia-Lambton and the New Beginnings Chatham-Kent Brain Injury Association as they worked through the process of integrating their organizations and services. The community services were close to finalizing their partnership at the end of 2011-12.

Finally, Bluewater Health's Strategic Plan identified Acute Chronic Conditions Management as a priority initiative for 2012-13 and in January 2012, launched an Acute Chronic Conditions Management Project. The project goal is to "seek to improve the quality of life for people with chronic and complex conditions, increase supports for their caregivers and families, and prevent unplanned and avoidable hospital admissions". The manager of the District Stroke Centre is actively participating on this project's Working Group.



Linda Dykes, District Stroke Coordinator