

HURON PERTH DISTRICT UPDATE

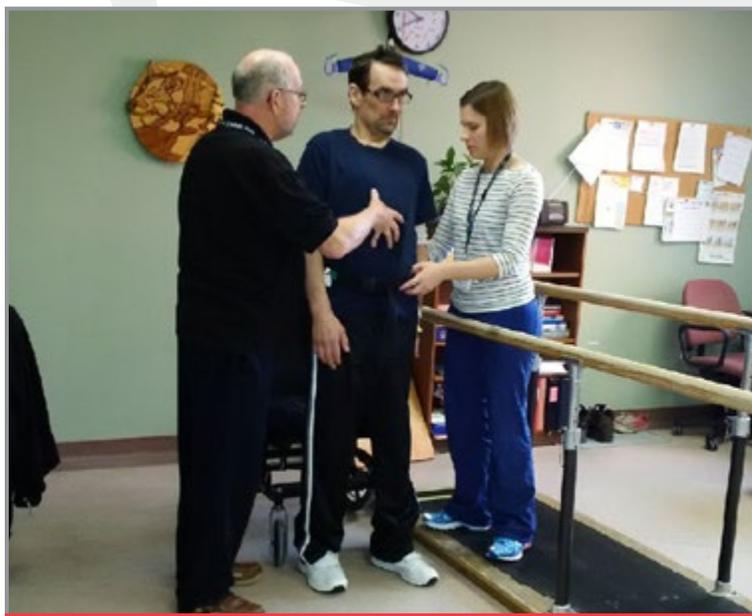
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It was a year of transitions and exciting progress for the Stroke Program in Huron Perth. New members have joined each of our teams offering excellence across the continuum of stroke care. Building on the strength of the comprehensive plenary work performed in 2013/14, many initiatives are underway to further improve our District's outcomes.

A significant achievement was the opening of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance's (HPHA) Integrated Stroke Unit at the Stratford General Hospital site. This Unit consists of three acute medical and five rehabilitation beds dedicated to the care of TIA and Stroke patients. The ISU team immersed themselves in stroke best practice, embracing every educational opportunity. Together, they developed processes resulting in a strong interprofessional, collaborative team that employs recognized best practices to achieve patient-specific goals. Exciting outcomes in patient experience and recovery are already emerging.



In Occupational Therapy, a stroke patient receives a contrast bath to help with tone & swelling in his arm



A stroke patient prepares to practice walking in Physiotherapy

There was an emphasis on building the teams' stroke expertise and awareness of advances in TIA/stroke care best practice. A series of Lunch and Learn sessions at HPHA highlighted best practice. National Institute of Health Stroke Scale training sessions were well attended by nursing staff from across the continuum of care. Our nurses also received training in the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Stroke Dysphagia Screen. Also, to better care for our aphasic stroke patients, Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia sessions were hosted by Megan Sawicky, Speech Language Pathologist on the CSRT. Concurrently, team members were provided access to [Hemispheres](#) online training and used the Acute Stroke Unit Orientation resource. In December 2014, HPHA hosted a Telestroke for Acute Stroke Management session that was well received by a large audience.

The Community Stroke Rehab Team continued to advance stroke best practice within Huron and Perth. As one of three such teams leading community stroke care in Ontario, they looked to strengthen their role to reintegrate the stroke patient back into their life and community. To this end, a Team representative now attends the patient care rounds on the ISU, resulting

in more coordinated discharge planning and greater patient engagement in the transition.

Emphasis on prevention and management post stroke or TIA is paramount to the overall goal of fewer strokes. The Stroke Prevention Clinic at Stratford General Hospital saw a significant rise in visits during this year (259 visits versus 214 the previous year). Concurrently, the nurse clinician for the program serves as an invaluable link throughout the continuum from the Emergency Department to the CSRT, further enhancing the patient experience. As the Regionalization Project moves into the second phase, a shared vision for stroke care across the District's eight hospitals is essential. Following Doris

Noble's retirement, the role of Manager of the District Stroke Centre was assumed by Ellen Richards. Ellen has been establishing a supportive network of hospitals and service providers, cultivating knowledge of, and implementation of, best practice throughout the District.

2015-16 promises to be another fantastic year full of exciting changes that advance the provision of Stroke and TIA care throughout Huron and Perth counties.



Members of the new ISU team with a patient