

## HEALTHCARE WORKING SMARTER:

### Use of OTN in 2018/19:

- 1,045,389 virtual/patient events
- 47,719 education events

### Getting Satisfaction:

- 91% of patients surveys were satisfied with their telemedicine visit and would use telemedicine again

### OTN at a Glance:

- 2,847 systems in the community
- Numerous established clinical programs supporting a full range of clinical services
- 6,541 health care professionals use the Network for clinical consultations

Where can I get more information about Telestroke?

If you have any questions, please speak to your healthcare provider. You can also visit OTN online at [www.otn.ca/telestroke](http://www.otn.ca/telestroke) or call 1-866-454-6861

## YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT

OTN knows that your personal health information is important to you and must be protected. Personal health information is any information that can identify you and link you to health care services you receive.

OTN knows that your personal health information (PHI) is important to you and must be protected. PHI is any information that can identify you and link you to health care services you receive. This can include your:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Health Card Number
- Health Professional's Name
- Reason for Seeing a Health Professional
- Lab or Examination Results

Your doctor and other health care providers involved in your care will see your personal health information. OTN-designated technical and administrative staff who need to access this information in order to perform their job functions or to support the technology or Telestroke program will also have access to the information.

OTN uses a variety of administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect your personal health information from unauthorized access, use, copying, modifications or disclosure.

For more information please visit our website at [www.otn.ca](http://www.otn.ca) or contact our Privacy Officer at [privacy@otn.ca](mailto:privacy@otn.ca).

Ce document est également disponible en français



1-866-454-6861



[otn.ca](http://otn.ca)



# TELESTROKE FOR PATIENTS & FAMILIES

 Ontario  
OTN is a not-for-profit organization  
funded by the Ontario Government.

**otn.telestroke**<sup>®</sup>



## What is Telestroke?

The hospital where you are receiving care is a participant in a program called Telestroke. Patients who have symptoms of the kind of stroke that is caused by a blood clot in the brain now have the opportunity to have their test results shared with a telestroke neurologist in another location.

The neurologist will view your CT scan (brain X-ray) image from a workstation at their location. Your doctor at the hospital will speak with the neurologist over the telephone and share the results of your blood tests. If the neurologist needs more information about your symptoms, s/he will be able to see and speak to you using special videoconferencing equipment (two-way television).

“ The video is excellent and clear. It was really helpful to see my doctor on the screen. He’s as big as life. ”

## Treatment with t-PA

Your doctor will decide if you would benefit from receiving a special drug called t-PA (tissue plasminogen activator). This drug is administered through an intravenous line over the course of an hour. t-PA can break up a blood clot and allow blood supply to return. Treatment with t-PA can greatly improve your condition or at least prevent it from getting worse. Studies have shown improvement with one out of every eight patients who are candidates for the drug and who receive it within 6 hours of their stroke symptoms occurring.

## Risks of t-PA

If you are given t-PA, there is a chance of bleeding into the brain or other areas of the body. Studies in the United States and Canada have shown the chance of bleeding into your brain is approximately 5% (compared to approximately 2% if t-PA is not given). If bleeding into the brain occurs, it may cause stroke symptoms to worsen and may result in death.

Because of this risk, patients are screened prior to being treated to ensure that they are not at increased risk of bleeding. Studies have shown that the death rate is the same with or without t-PA.

If you are given t-PA, there is approximately a 1% risk that you will experience an allergic reaction to the drug, which may cause swelling of your face and tongue. You will be monitored for this reaction and treated immediately for it if necessary.



## What if I do not wish to participate in Telestroke?

If you choose not to participate in Telestroke, you will be treated according to the standard protocols at the hospital. You will not receive t-PA, a telestroke neurologist in another location will not view your CT image and there will not be a videoconference.

## What if I would like to participate in Telestroke but do not wish to receive t-PA?

If you choose to participate in Telestroke but not receive t-PA, you will continue to be treated according to the treatment protocols at the hospital, but you may have the added benefit of having your CT Scan image reviewed by a telestroke neurologist in another location.