



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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2015/16 Stroke Report Card Shows Improvements in Windsor-Essex

Windsor ON. Ontario stroke patients are getting rehabilitation care earlier and more patients are meeting length of stay targets, according to new research from the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and the Ontario Stroke Network (OSN).

Results of the Stroke Report Card for the Erie St. Clair LHIN indicate that patients treated for stroke show improvements as a result of the hospital realignment; having acute stroke care focused on by one organization and rehabilitation care the focus of another. The proportion of stroke patients treated on a stroke unit in the Erie St. Clair LHIN at any time during their hospital stay was reported as 36% in 2015/16 up from 18% in 2014/15. Early positive results from the impact of the opening of a dedicated Acute Stroke Unit April 3, 2017 at the WRH Ouellette Campus have not been factored into the report. However, it is anticipated that the ESC LHIN results will only improve as the program matures and cares for more stroke patients.

Other improvements documented indicate patients eligible to receive the clot busting drug tPA are receiving it faster within 63 minutes of arrival to hospital.

Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare is responsible for rehabilitation services and has done a tremendous amount of work ensuring smooth transition from acute to rehab as well as having implemented a community rehabilitation outreach team in 2016. In addition, Erie Shores HealthCare (formerly Leamington District Memorial Hospital) also assists with providing inpatient rehabilitation services for county patients so they can rehabilitate closer to home.

An example of exemplary performance is the proportion of stroke patients who arrive by EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and proportion of acute stroke patients discharged from acute care and admitted to inpatient rehabilitation.

“In partnership with Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, Erie Shores Healthcare (formerly Leamington District Memorial Hospital), Community Care Access Centre and our Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network, the Windsor Essex District Stroke Program has done a tremendous amount of work this past year to create a system of improved access to stroke care and elevating a standard of

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care for stroke patients that align with best practices and will continue to improve our patient outcomes and performance indicators,” said Janice Dawson, Vice President, Critical Care, Cardiology, Regional Stroke and Clinical Support Services.

“Our inter-professional team has made great strides in meeting best practice length of stay targets for our stroke population. This creates highly efficient flow, enabling timely access to neuro rehabilitation beds at HDGH.” stated Janice Kaffer, President and CEO, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare.

“The partnership between the organizations has been a huge benefit for all stroke patients. Erie Shores HealthCare is able to bring patients, whose residence are located in the Erie Shores region, improved access to rehabilitation closer to home and closer to their families,” said Sue Gibson, Acting CEO, Erie Shores HealthCare.

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) is an independent, non-profit organization that uses population-based health information to produce knowledge on a broad range of health care issues.

The Ontario Stroke Network and Cardiac Care Network of Ontario are a joint entity to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to cardiac vascular and stroke care in Ontario.

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