



Abbreviations at end of Communiqué

The Ontario Stroke Network provides leadership and coordination for the Ontario Stroke System. It is funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

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## OSN Strategic Plan

The OSN has completed its strategic planning process and the final report will be submitted to the Board for approval on September 9, 2011. Upon approval the Strategic Plan will be shared with OSS stakeholders. At the September 26, 2011 RPD's/DSC's meeting the OSN strategic plan will be discussed and a process to consider provincial directions in the development of regional and district plans determined.

*Board/Staff Participants: Joann Trypuc, Malcolm Moffat, Adam Watson, Lori Marshall, Cally Martin, Linda Kelloway, Linda Nutbrown, Chris O'Callaghan*

## Telestroke

On September 14, 2011 the first meeting of the Ontario Telestroke Steering Committee will be held. The committee will review and approve of the terms of reference. The proposed role of the Ontario Telestroke Steering Committee is to "provide a forum to identify, plan and monitor provincial Telestroke initiatives such as site designation, clinical and technical issues, and emerging best practices".

An emerging issue is the need to balance the opportunity to increase the number of Telestroke sites against the need to ensure access to "stroke unit care". A briefing note is in development and will be reviewed at the Sept 14 2011 meeting and at September 26 2011 RPD and DSC meeting.

*Board/Staff Participants: Demetrios Sahlas, Darren Jermyn, Chris O'Callaghan, Linda Kelloway*

## Research Update

Final funding decisions have been made and researchers have been notified of the outcome. Upon receipt of a confirmation from successful researchers by September 6 2011 that they wish to proceed, a list of successful projects will be forwarded to the Board and OSS.

The draft Research Grant Administration Policy will be submitted to the OSN Board for review and approval at its September meeting. Upon approval the policy will be shared with the OSS and OSN researchers. A videoconference will be scheduled to provide an overview of the policy and allow the opportunity for "Q&A".

Stakeholders and subcommittees will be requested to identify research priorities for recommendation to the OSN Board in preparation for the FY 12/13 call for proposals.

Deborah VanOosten joined the OSN in the role of Research and Knowledge Translation Coordinator (R&KTC) on Aug 15, 2011. Deborah holds a Master of Education in Administrative and Organization Theory, this combined with her years as a Senior Advisor with the Ministry of Research and Innovation and most recently as a Senior Research and Planning Advisor with the MoHLTC, has provided her with extensive experience in the areas



of policy/strategy analysis and development, project and program management, stakeholder relations, and contract negotiations and management.

*Board/Staff participants: Sandra Ireland, Linda Kelloway, Ruth Hall, Chris O'Callaghan*

## Best Practice Sub-Committee (Secondary Prevention and Acute Care)

The committee has identified two areas of priority: Stroke Units and Outpatient/ER/TIA/Minor Stroke Management. The Stroke Unit task group has recommended the completion of an environmental scan utilizing the OSA Resource inventory and the development of a Stroke Unit Implementation Toolkit. The Outpatient/ER/TIA/Minor Stroke Management task group is exploring strategies and opportunities to address Carotid Endarterectomy wait times and endorsement and application of common triage definitions. The timelines and additional workplan activities will be determined in October.

*Board/Staff Participants: Demetrios Sahlas, Linda Kelloway, Ruth Hall*

## Knowledge Translation

OREG has completed the first phase of professional education review and is now working on prioritization. The "Knowledge to Action" (KTA) framework will guide the prioritization process and steps for revision of the priority Professional Education Atlas accordingly. The KTA framework was also used to guide the revision of the Outcome Measures Toolkit. This work is now complete and the toolkit will be accessible on the OSN website by mid-September. Dissemination and orientation to the KTA framework is planned for September 2011.

The OSS regions/districts have submitted more than 75 successful abstracts to the 2011 Canadian Stroke Congress. The OSN team is involved in 12 successful abstract submissions. More than 500 health care professionals has registered for the annual Collaborative Forum, which will include 30 poster presentations.

*Board/Staff Participants: Sandra Ireland, Linda Kelloway*

## Communications and Stakeholder Relations RFP

The OSN issued a Communications and Stakeholder Relations RFP on August 8, 2011 with the following objectives:

- Phase 1 (Oct-Nov): Develop and finalize a written communication and public relations plan for the target audiences
- Phase 2: Provide flexible communication and SR services to implement the plan and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan

It is expected a decision on the successful vendor will be made mid-September 2011.

*Board/Staff Participants: Sandra Ireland, Mary Lewis, Adam Watson, Linda Kelloway, Chris O'Callaghan*

## Evaluation Update

The Ontario Stroke Evaluation Report 2011 – "Improving System Efficiency by Implementing Stroke Best Practices" was released on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to coincide with Stroke Month. The report included Ontario's first provincial and LHIN report cards which was the focus of the media release. The SEQC Knowledge Translation Subcommittee has conducted a focus group with the RPDs and DSCs and received feedback on the strengths



and weaknesses of the report cards and the LHIN engagement process. Overall the feedback was very positive. The need to improve timeliness and include trending information was noted as areas for improvement.

Data collection for the FY 10/11 OSA is currently underway and will be completed by December. This is the largest audit of acute stroke care with an estimated 16,000 charts being abstracted. This audit will include: 100% of stroke/TIA patients seen at RSCs and DSCs; at least 30% of the stroke/TIA patients seen at non-designated hospitals; and, for the first time pediatric stroke cases. More than 2,000 "non RSC" charts and 5,000 RSC charts have been 75% completed.

The revised web-based Stroke Prevention Clinic (SPC) case record form is in the final stages of testing and expected to be available by November. A webinar to provide orientation to the SPC case record form and to obtain input on planning for the 2012/13 SPC audit is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>.

The summer has focused on: the analyses and interpretation of "trajectories of stroke care" following an acute stroke; an administrative database risk-adjustment model to evaluate mortality; the relationship of stroke facility volume to outcomes; writing a paper on Ontario's benchmarks for stroke care; gaining familiarity with the Continuing Care Reporting System databases and the inter-RAI; and, submitting abstracts to the International Stroke Conference in New Orleans in Feb 2011. Abstracts submitted include, facility stroke volume and outcome relationship, gender differences in stroke secondary prevention care and the implementation of alphaFIM across Ontario.

The Ontario Stroke Evaluation Program FY 11/12 agreement and funding was received August 2011. A successful meeting with ICES and evaluation team with regard to ensuring smooth transition of funding, accountabilities and agreements between ICES and Canadian Stroke Network.

*Board/Staff Participants: Mark Bayley, Darren Jermyn, Cally Martin, Ruth Hall, Chris O'Callaghan*

## Ontario Integrated Vascular Health Strategy

Cynthia Johnston has been hired as the Ontario Integrated Vascular Health Strategy (OIVHS) Project Manager and will work with the OIVHS Coalition Steering Committee (OSN, CCN and HSFO staff) and Advisory Council to facilitate development of the OIVHS Blueprint and related initiatives.

Ms. Sandra Hanmer has accepted the appointment to Chair the OIVHS Advisory Council (AC). Sandra is working with the Coalition Steering Committee to confirm the membership of the Council. The AC will provide advice and guidance to the Coalition Steering Committee to support development of the blueprint and champion its implementation. The AC will represent a broad range of viewpoints and perspectives and ensure that the process has input from relevant experts and stakeholders in vascular health and care - including patients and family members.

An OIVHS Project Charter has been approved by the three Boards (CCN, HSFO and OSN) and shared with stakeholders.

*Board/Staff Participants: Chris O'Callaghan*



## Expert Panel on Rehabilitation and Complex Continuing Care

Development of the cost analysis benefit is underway and is coordinated by Matthew Meyer. Matthew will be working closely with Dr. Ruth Hall, Dr. Mark Bayley, Dr. Robert Teasell, Dr. Walter Wodchis and others and collaborating with the Stroke Reference Group and broader OSS.

Deb Willems, the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network Rehabilitation Coordinator is supporting the completion of the gap analysis and best practice initiative inventory. The OSS Rehabilitation Coordinators are assisting Deb in the completion of this work. The next meeting of the Stroke Reference Panel is scheduled for Sept 8, 2011.

The MoHLTC has received the Access to Care “ER/ALC” report and recommendations from David Walker. This report incorporates the Expert Panel recommendations. Confirmation on next steps is pending.

*Board/Staff Participants: Mark Bayley, Malcolm Moffat, Chris O’Callaghan, Linda Kelloway*