

COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #9

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

DATE: May 14, 2020 | 8:00 – 9:00 AM

DISCLAIMER: The information in this document represents a high-level summary to capture the discussion at the point of time of the meeting and is NOT general guidance.

GROUPS REPRESENTED: More than 110 people joined the call with representation from CorHealth Cardiac Leadership Council, CorHealth Vascular and Stroke Leadership Chairs, Ministry of Health, Ontario Base Hospital-MAC, Ontario STEMI Network, Cardiac Medical Directors, Program Administrators, Cath Lab Medical Directors, EP Medical Directors, interventional cardiologists, and cardiac surgeons.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Chris Simpson, representing Ontario Health, presented an overview of the Ontario Health Memo: *A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, and encouraged hospitals and regions to begin **planning** for resumption of cardiac services. However, reinforced that at this time, there is no direction from the province to proceed with resuming services.

Ontario Health Memo: A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Dr. Simpson presented information on the OH memo and a question and answer period followed
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved, following the March 15, 2020 memorandum from the MOH, surgeries, procedures, diagnostic testing, and other health services have been delayed. The accumulating backlog is an issue and concern.
- As we move past this first wave of COVID-19, now is a good time to begin thinking about a measured approach to planning for resumption of surgeries and procedures. However, at this time it is planning only. An amendment to directive 2 is required before going ahead with resumption of surgeries and procedures

- Need to keep in mind the continuing issues in long-term care and congregate living facilities
- Some considerations, strategies, and requirements around resumption of services were discussed, including expectations of hospitals, expectations of regions/sub-regions, recommendations, feasibility decision-making criteria, process to prioritize cases, implementation considerations and opportunities
- Recommendations focused on taking a measured and careful approach, with collaboration across the system, ensuring the appropriate sign off and ensuring an ethical and fair approach
- This disruptive time is also an opportunity for change and system redesign (e.g. virtual and remote care options, appropriate use of tests and procedures, etc.)

Cardiac Work Streams Update

- Dr. P. Oh provided an update on the cardiac rehab work stream. A working group undertook the creation of CorHealth Cardiac Memo #12 – *Recommendations for an Approach to the Provision of Cardiovascular Rehabilitation during COVID-19 in Ontario*. This guidance document was posted on the CorHealth COVID-19 Resource Centre web page on May 12th, and the focus of discussion at the first Cardiac Rehab COVID-19 Forum meeting, which took place May 8th.
- Dr. H. Ross provided an update on the heart failure work stream. The 5th Heart Failure COVID-19 Forum meeting took place May 13th. With data from IC/ES and in collaboration with Dr. H. Wijesundera and his modelling work, some concerning data is emerging highlighting the fact that many patients with HF are not presenting to hospitals and their HF clinic visits during this time. There has been a significant shift to virtual visits. IPAC guidelines for resuming face to face care were shared at the HF forum meeting and found to be helpful, e.g. physical distancing, screening procedures, etc.

CorHealth Cardiac Quality Performance Measurement and Monitoring (QPMM) calls – emerging issues and themes

- QPMM calls have been repurposed to discuss emerging themes and issues during COVID-19. J. Jeffrey presented briefly on these emerging themes and issues. 14/20 of these calls with hospitals have been completed.
- The remaining 6 calls will be completed, and these emerging themes and issues will be summarized in a report and circulated back to the 20 hospitals, with information presented in a regional format.
- There was limited time to have a full discussion – forum members were encouraged to review the slides independently, if interested.

OTHER UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

- This week's cardiac report was circulated to Forum members
- CorHealth COVID-19 Forum Meeting Evaluation (Survey) will be circulated to all Forum members - stay tuned
- Survey of STEMI Activity during COVID-19 circulated to the Cath Lab Medical Directors at the 16 Hospitals with 24/7 PPCI across Ontario to better understand STEMI activity during COVID-19 – results will be shared at a future Forum meeting
- Next meeting of the group will be held Thursday, May 21, 2020, from 8:00 – 9:00 am
- If group members have any questions or comments, please email to Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca, and they will be included for discussion at future meeting