

# COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #18

## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**DATE:** August 27, 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.

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**GROUPS REPRESENTED:** Over 65 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

### CorHealth Ontario Virtual Care Initiative & Cardiac System Findings

- The CorHealth team provided an overview of CorHealth’s Virtual Care Initiative, key deliverables, and products; key barriers, needs, and opportunities related to the delivery of virtual cardiac care from stakeholder interviews, were presented, validated, and areas requiring further guidance were identified
- *Discussion:*
  - The group felt that IT and technology were major challenges with virtual care; however, these challenges were not insurmountable for the majority of patients, particularly with caregivers and family present. There was a more optimistic view on technological challenges
  - It was noted that a focus on more infrastructure for physician virtual exams (e.g., sitting and standing blood pressure, ECG) would act as an enabler of virtual care
  - It was felt that virtual care could serve to empower patients, and may put patients in a position of more control, which changes the nature of the provider-patient interaction
  - Others voiced that virtual care was an opportunity for individuals to move past their institutional biases or protectionist nature to tap into solutions and innovations that others are implementing in Ontario
  - It was noted that variability still exists in terms of the utilization of virtual care within facilities; thus, there is a need for consistency and guidance
  - Overall, it was felt that virtual care was part of a new learning curve, and in future

it would be best to implement a hybrid approach of virtual / in-person care

### **Heart & Stroke Foundation: Update on Virtual Care Activities**

- Ms. Natalie Gierman from the Heart & Stroke Foundation provided an overview of their virtual care activities underway
- System change priorities were outlined over the next 18 months or beyond based on discussions with their provincial territorial advisory committee, and the three top priorities included: recovery & resetting of systems of care, rehab models, and sustainability and quality of virtual care across the continuum
- The role of the Heart & Stroke Foundation was discussed in areas such as, guidance documents & toolkit/resources, decision aide criteria, advocacy, validated virtual care tools, PWLE perspective, and education
- An overview of the Stroke Virtual Care Implementation Toolkit was provided, and it was indicated that this toolkit is currently being adapted for Cardiac broadly

### **Cardiac Activity Update**

- Garth Oakes provided a cardiac activity update outlining the percentage reduction/increase in activity across procedure groups and at the hospital level
- Current provincial activity from this year to last year was presented for each procedure group
- Compared to the previous week (Aug 3 – Aug 9), most procedure groups had increased activity this week (Aug 10 – Aug 16)

### **OTHER UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS**

- This week's cardiac report was circulated to Forum members; cardiac activity reports will continue on a bi-weekly basis over the summer months
- Next meeting of the group will be held Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 8:00 – 9:00 am
- If group members have any questions or comments, please email to [Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca](mailto:Jana.Jeffrey@corhealthontario.ca), and they will be included for discussion at future meeting