

# COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #13

## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**DATE:** June 18, 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 100 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

### **Ontario Health Memo; Recommendations for Regional Health Care Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Outpatient Care, Primary Care, and Home & Community Care (Dr. Chris Simpson)**

- Dr. Chris Simpson provided an overview of the recommendations from Ontario Health regarding Outpatient Care, Primary Care, and Home & Community Care
- The document outlines high-level principles that should underpin decision-making, regardless of setting, during the COVID-19 pandemic; detailed planning, is to be completed by sector-specific individuals
- The recommendations outlined within this document, include: maximizing virtual care; comprehensive infection prevention & control; PPE availability; health human resources assessed; delivery of services supporting the full continuum of care; regular communication; monitoring of COVID-19 levels; and ethical prioritization strategies
- Dr. Simpson highlighted the opportunity for moving the integration dial, by encouraging collaboration and partnerships across other stakeholders in the system
- Open Forum Discussion:
- *Locally, are others facing challenges in terms of encouraging patients to come in to health facilities, due to anxiety as a result of COVID-19? How are others dealing with this?*
  - There is the need for a communication strategy to reassure patients & clients that they are visiting a well-managed facility with IPAC protocol; there is the

- opportunity for Ontario Health / MOH to develop this.
- UHN has developed an app that streamlines activities and provides efficiencies from a clinical perspective. Going forward 50-60% of visits will continue to be virtual for the HF clinic program, while there are many elderly and frail patients that may need to come in, accompanied by a caregiver.
- *Virtual Care needs to be a part of the long-term strategy; are there discussions by Ontario Health regarding provincial investment into infrastructure & resources*
  - Recognize the need for these discussions and expect there will be the opportunity for these discussions over the coming months.
- *Has there been discussion around providing support to community clinics, regarding accessing PPE and the potential for group rates to reduce costs?*
  - There is a provincial table on PPE and there is a very sophisticated ethical distribution strategy, including health sector and non-health care sector. The hope will be that costs are not downloaded to individual patients but carried more centrally instead.

### **Cardiac Memo #13: Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Resuming Echocardiographic Services During COVID-19 (Dr. Anthony Sanfilippo)**

- Dr. Anthony Sanfilippo presented recommendations for resuming echocardiography services and outlined the challenge of modifying service provision in a manner that complies with public health requirements, while engaging the backlog of deferred exams
- Some key highlights from the recommendations include, critical triaging of deferred examinations; consultation with referring physicians; collaboration between community and hospital-based facilities; and developing technical interfaces to share examinations and reports
- Open Forum Discussion:
- *Is TEE considered to be an AGMP?*
  - Hospital IPAC teams have had variable assessments of this, and this remains somewhat controversial. It is suggested that CorHealth brings this forward for further discussion with the MOH.

### **Cardiac Memo #14: Recommendations for an Approach to Resuming In-Person Outpatient Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Services in Ontario (Dr. Paul Oh)**

- Dr. Paul Oh provided an overview of Cardiac Memo #14 (released on June 17<sup>th</sup>), regarding an approach to resuming in-person outpatient cardiac rehabilitation services.
- The number or duration of in-person assessments will be limited around 25% for the foreseeable future, with exercise and counselling limited on-site.

**Updates to Weekly Cardiac Activity Report (Garth Oakes)**

- Garth Oakes provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Cardiac COVID Activity Reports, which include changes to: (1) Weekly activity pages, (2) Provincial graphs that compare last year to this year, and (3) Table that compares activity to last week and the same time last year.

**OTHER UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS**

- This week's cardiac report was circulated to Forum members
- Next meeting of the group will be held Thursday, June 25, 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