

# COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum #6

## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**DATE:** APRIL 23, 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:** More than 120 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

- Updates were provided around the activities and discussions under way at the Ontario Health COVID-19 Health System Response Oversight Table (Chaired by Dr. Chris Simpson). Dr. Simpson agreed to meet with CorHealth, Dr. M. Natarajan (Chair of the COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum) and Dr. S. Nagpal (Chair of the COVID-19 Vascular Forum), to share patient care related activities underway due to COVID-19 and opportunities for alignment with the Oversight Table. Dr. C. Simpson has indicated that a high-level document will be released soon and will include disease agnostic principles for consideration around increasing, or decreasing, service activity, as required. Forum members expressed interest around better understanding the composition and mandate of this committee.

## Cardiac Work Streams Update

- **Rehab:** Dr. P. Oh provided an update on the Rehab work during COVID-19. System, provider and patient related challenges to providing and accessing cardiac rehab were discussed. A CorHealth guidance document is being developed to support rehab care during COVID-19.
- **STEMI:** Dr. S. Miner presented an update on STEMI. A wording change has been made to CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #3: *Recommendations for an Ontario*

*Approach to Managing STEMI during COVID-19.* Version 2 of this document is now available on the CorHealth COVID-19 Resource Centre.

- The fear around contracting COVID-19 experienced by patients is impacting patients accessing the health system in a timely manner in response to their cardiac symptoms.
- The CAIC and CCS have jointly released a poster encouraging patients to continue to call 911 and reach out to their health care providers, during COVID-19. Forum members feel it is important for patients to understand the potential risk of not seeking medical attention for their cardiac symptoms, and that this may outweigh the risk of COVID-19 exposure in hospitals and ERs.

**Action Item:** Forum members were encouraged to share this poster broadly.

- **Electrophysiology:** Dr. A Verma spoke to cardiac EP. Findings reveal that EP procedures has dropped in recent weeks. Patients who have been deferred (battery changes, etc.) have been returning and needing care. Primary prevention ICD has been deferred, but now, with wait times going way beyond the recommended 8 weeks, there is concern about these patients and the impact of the growing waitlist to the system and patients over the next year. EP has been included in the CORE cardiac submodule.
- **Cath/PCI:** Dr. E. Cohen spoke to the guidance document under way to support decision-making around Cath and PCI during COVID-19. This document will be posted shortly on the CorHealth COVID-19 resource centre.
- **Cardiac Surgery:** D. C. Feindel spoke to the guidance document under way to support cardiac surgery during COVID-19. This will also be shared shortly.
- **Heart Failure:** Dr. H. Ross provided an update on heart failure. The way heart failure care is being provided has drastically transformed in recent weeks. Explorations specific to heart failure around the CORE cardiac submodule are under way.
- **Structural Heart:** Dr. S. Radhakrishnan provided an update. TAVI activity has drastically dropped following Memo #7. Waitlist management is now the focus in looking at ramp up.

### **CORE Cardiac Submodule Update**

- Dr. H. Wijeyesundera presented an update on the CORE cardiac submodule, including commentary around epidemiology and resource projections.
- After the last Forum meeting, a survey was circulated to all hospitals to gather information around PPE use in cardiac procedures. A short-term projection of PPE use was shared.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Forum meetings will continue on a weekly basis for now – there continues to be a high level of interest from the cardiac community.
- Next meeting of the group will be held next Thursday, April 30, 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 meetings