

April 23, 2020

Re: Considerations for Emergency Department STEMI Management in the Context of COVID-19

COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis and poses a significant risk to the community as the landscape is rapidly evolving. CorHealth Ontario, in consultation with STEMI stakeholders has made recommendations in the management of STEMI in the face of COVID-19, that aims to preserve the robust STEMI system in Ontario for as long and as safely as possible. The Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Managing STEMI During COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.corhealthontario.ca/CorHealth-COVID-19-Cardiac-Memo3-Recommendations-for-an-Ontario-Approach-to-Managing-STEMI-During-COVID-19.pdf>

Due to potential regional and local resource constraints in the context of COVID-19, management of persons presenting to the ED with STEMI diagnosis may require modification from usual protocols.

To prepare for situations where pressure on regional resources (paramedic services, cardiac catheterization labs) due to an increase in COVID-19 cases may warrant adoption of a pharmaco-invasive approach to STEMI management, emergency departments should ensure appropriate equipment, medication, policies and procedures are in place locally to support this change. This is especially relevant for Emergency departments where routine care in non-COVID era has been referral for Primary PCI.

Additional resources related to fibrinolysis administration can be found in the Provincial Emergency Department STEMI Algorithm tool located here: <https://www.corhealthontario.ca/STEMI-Algorithm-Poster-18x24.pdf>

Emergency departments are also encouraged in the context of COVID-19 to establish mechanisms to support bi-directional dialogue with their regional cardiac centres to discuss optimal patient management in the context of complex diagnosis (e.g. late presentations) and other inflammatory factors requiring treatment considerations related to coronavirus infection.