

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



Season's Greetings

From the West GTA Stroke Network (WGTASN)

As we embrace the warmth and joy of the holiday season, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering dedication and hard work have been instrumental in advancing our stroke system and supporting stroke survivors throughout the region.

As we look forward to the New Year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and remain steadfast in our mission to strive for stroke excellence. Let's continue to work together to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Stroke Distinction

We are pleased to announce that Trillium Health Partners (THP) Mississauga Hospital (regional stroke centre) has earned **Stroke Distinction Accreditation from Accreditation Canada**—a prestigious recognition of their unwavering commitment to deliver excellence in stroke care.

Stroke Distinction is a specialized quality improvement recognition program developed by Accreditation Canada in collaboration with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. It sets the bar for acute stroke services, inpatient rehabilitation, and a comprehensive system of care for those with lived experience of stroke.

This accreditation specifically focused on the hyper-acute phase (emergency department, interventional radiology, intensive care, neuro step-down etc.), inpatient acute, and inpatient rehabilitation phases of the stroke care continuum at the Mississauga Hospital site. Accreditation reviewers praised THP's focus on collaboration, evidence-informed decision-making, and quality improvement across these critical areas.

Engaged teams and leaders across the continuum of care—spanning the neuro-MSK teams, stroke and neuro special care, the Angio Suite, the comprehensive stroke unit, and the West GTA Stroke Network—were key in achieving this milestone.



REGIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Roll out of Tenecteplase at THP



THP, both MH and CVH Sites, introduced the use of Tenecteplase (TNK) for the treatment of Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS). It is crucial to emphasize that during this transition period, Alteplase (TPA) will remain available for the treatment of AIS. Post-thrombolysis patient monitoring and care will remain consistent with our current practices.

The Canadian Stroke Best Practice Guidelines (2022) suggest TNK as an alternative treatment to TPA for AIS patients within 4.5 hours of symptom onset. This recommendation is based on TNK's unique characteristics and ease of administration, allowing for faster drug delivery. For more information or questions regarding this please contact the WGTASN westgtastroke@thp.ca.

Management of Post Stroke Depression Education Session



On October 4th, 2024, the WGTASN hosted an education session on Post-Stroke Depression at William Osler Health System Brampton Civic Site, with online participation available. Over 75 participants joined, including 25 clinicians on-site. Led by Rosalind Matthews (RN) and Kristen Thompson (SLP), the session covered Canadian Stroke Best Practices for managing Post-Stroke Depression, screening protocols, and working with challenging patients. Feedback indicated participants felt better prepared to screen for post-stroke depression. The hybrid format was well received, and WGTASN plans to continue using this approach for future educational events.

Community Stroke Rehabilitation (CSR)

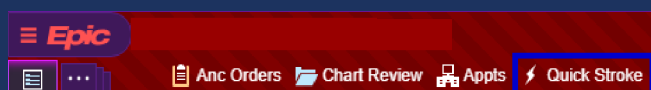
In 2022 the Ministry of Health announced an investment targeted to improve rehabilitation post stroke within the province. Ontario Health-CorHealth was tasked with leading the multi-year provincial Community Stroke Rehabilitation (CSR) initiative which has included a provincial CSR Current State and Gap Analysis along with some initial investment of funding especially to assist areas of the province that did not currently have CSR services. WGTASN along with regional stakeholders have been working to implement the CSR Model of Care. The WGTASN CSR Operational Committee with representatives from each program offering CSR programming in the region meet regularly and are committed to improving services for stroke patients.

If you are working in CSR in the region and would like to connect with other clinicians in the region and beyond, you can check out the Ontario Health-CorHealth CSR Community of Practice Coffee Chat Series. If you would like more information, please contact Stacey.Williams@thp.ca.



Implementation of Quick Stroke Button at THP

The Quick Stroke Button officially went live 05/12/2024 in EPIC (electronic medical records). This feature allows Interventional Radiologist (IR) Techs and Nurses to start an EVT procedure immediately upon a patient's arrival in the Angio Suite. THP is among the few hospitals in the country offering Direct to Angio access for EVT treatment. This remarkable process enables patients from other facilities, suffering from an acute stroke, to bypass the THP ED and triage, and go directly to the Angio Suite for an EVT procedure. This significantly reduces door-to-puncture times and improves the chances of a positive patient outcome. With the Quick Stroke Button, IR staff can now save crucial minutes by bypassing the need for order entry by a Stroke Neurologist, which can be challenging during peak times and off-hours. This button allows staff to take a verbal order, create an order, and check the patient in with a single click.



OTHER RESOURCES

Regional Stroke Rounds

These free virtual rounds are aimed at standardizing stroke care across the WGTASN region. All healthcare providers involved in stroke care are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact your clinical educators or clinical managers. These rounds typically take place quarterly.



Provincial Stroke Rounds

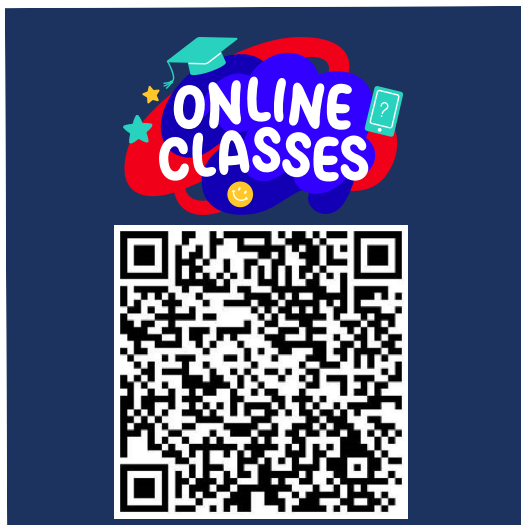
Provincial Stroke Rounds (PSR) is an educational program that uses a virtual platform to deliver lectures on stroke best practices. It aims to educate healthcare professionals on new and emerging stroke care practices. Hosted by the Regional Stroke Networks on a rotating basis, PSR sessions occur 6-8 times a year, typically on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 am. Information is emailed to stroke/neuro clinical educators and managers within the region.

For more details and access to past recordings, please visit the WGTASN website at:
www.westgstastroke.ca/professionals/

WGTASN Virtual Classroom

Any health care providers seeking to improve their knowledge of stroke care can benefit from completing these online e-learning modules. They are free and you can learn at your own pace. This web based learning resource allows individuals to move at their own pace. There are over 10 stroke related e-learning modules available!

To access the modules you must create a free account by visiting link below or scan QR code <https://westgstastroke.ca/login/>



Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations (CSBPR)

The CSBPR provides evidence-based guidelines to improve stroke care. These guidelines, developed by experts, aim to enhance prevention, treatment, and recovery, ensuring high-quality stroke services across Canada. The recommendations target healthcare professionals involved in stroke care, emphasizing continuous improvement and evidence-based practices to optimize patient outcomes.

To access visit: www.strokebestpractices.ca

The WGTASN Community Resource Booklet

Highlights key community programs supporting persons with stroke in our region. The booklet was recently updated and is now available for download off the WGTASN website at:
<https://westgstastroke.ca/community-resources/>

