

## Windsor Essex Stroke District 2010-2011 Summary of Accomplishments



**Prevention:** The stroke prevention program continues to grow, with volumes of patient referrals continuing to rise annually. In 2010, the TIA Clinic provided service to 885 patients. This represents a 13% increase in volume since 2008. We have maintained an average wait time of 2.68 days for routine referrals. Our partnership with the Chatham Kent District Stroke Centre's TIA Clinic continues to flourish. For those patients referred to us for either carotid stenosis or complex stroke assessment, the average wait time was 4.07 days in 2010.

The TIA Clinic now also provides follow-up for all mild stroke patients who required hospitalization. The Acute Stroke Nurse refers them for the purposes of risk factor management and this process has proven quite successful.

**Acute Care:** In acute care, we adapted our internal clinical processes to reflect the best practice increased time window for tPA to 4.5 hours. To coincide with this, education to district paramedics was provided by both Medical Directors of the District Stroke Centre and Base Hospital. A dysphagia screening process is in its final stage of implementation at Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital (HDGH). Dysphagia screening continues at Leamington District Memorial Hospital with the support of our staff. We have also begun to include hemorrhagic strokes in our CIHI #340 data collection across Windsor Essex. In addition, with HDGH providing inpatient tertiary acute care to patients from the Chatham Kent District, the DSC's in both districts have worked diligently to ensure smooth transitions for these patients as they return to their home district. We have worked with our partners at the regional centre to build capacity within the region to implement the NIHSS. Our Acute Stroke Nurse, now identified as the region's expert, has developed an education package with the Regional Education Coordinator that will be presented at both CHKA and Bluewater Health.

**Rehabilitation and Community Reengagement:** To support stroke patients and caregivers in the community, we continue to offer support groups. As well, we have begun to offer the Heart & Stroke Foundation's Living With Stroke series. Our Stroke Rehabilitation Nurse at Windsor Regional Hospital now follows up with hemorrhagic as well as the ischemic complex disabled stroke patients as they transition to our community.

We anticipate and look forward to more great things in 2011-2012 as we implement the District Reviews, District Council, and continue our work in the clinical environment.