



Erie St. Clair LHIN District Stroke Centre Spotlight – Bluewater Health

Bluewater Health has had a number of exciting and successful initiatives and events in the past year. Here are a few highlights:

Working In Function – A Multi-Disciplinary NDT Workshop: Bluewater Health was very pleased to welcome Karen Guha on June 8th, 2019 to teach “Working in Function: A Multi-Disciplinary NDT Workshop”. Participants included Nurses, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Rehab Assistants from both Bluewater Health and Chatham Kent Health Alliance. Almost all participants completing the course feedback survey rated the course as “excellent” and that they would “definitely” recommend this course to colleagues. All participants responded that the multi-disciplinary participant approach added value to working more collaboratively in the future.



Rehabilitation Stroke Unit: Over the past six years at Bluewater Health, stroke patients have been treated by a specific stroke specialist therapy team. Unlike our designated Acute Stroke Unit on Medical Telemetry, they have not been in a geographically co-located area on the Rehabilitation Unit. That all changed on July 1st, 2019 as patients with stroke are now admitted to ten stroke specific beds within the forty bed Rehabilitation Unit. This is an exciting development for the quality and safety of patient care and to meet one of the KPI for Stroke Rehab Care.



Code Stroke Process Improvements: As of June 18th, 2019, Bluewater Health has implemented a modified “pit-stop” model approach to Code Stroke. A hyperacute working group has been dedicated in its work to improve these processes that include pre-notification and pre-registration by EMS, notification of the stroke on-call physician at that time, rapid hand over to the stroke team to assess the patient on arrival to the ED and maintaining the patient on the EMS stretcher to the CT scanner. Bluewater Health is looking forward to welcoming Dr. Andrew Samis who pioneered the “pit stop” model approach for Code Stroke to present at Grand Rounds on October 8th, 2019.



Peer Support Group: Ten volunteers who completed their stroke rehabilitation at Bluewater Health following their own stroke between 2013 and 2018 are returning to offer their time to our Peer Support initiative. They have completed their initial meeting together and are now completing the organization orientation. It is planned that the program will commence in the fall of 2019 in partnership with March of Dimes Canada and their “Peers Fostering Hope” program. Three of the volunteers have also committed to becoming PEP’s at Bluewater Health.

Secondary Stroke Prevention Clinic (SSPC): Ease of access to our SSPC has improved over the last two months since the commitment of the ED and Internal Medicine physicians to order CT/CTA on all our suspected TIA patients presenting to the ED. This has allowed completion of the required diagnostics and subsequently rapid access to the clinic in a more timely manner in alignment with the Canadian Best Practice Recommendations.





Acute & Rehabilitation Unit Orientation: Work is ongoing to have the SWOSN Acute and Rehabilitation Unit Orientation added to the e-learning modules. Training in supported conversations and dysphagia screening are also ongoing over the summer months with an anticipated completion date of fall 2019.