

In Their Own Words . . .



A Windsor woman learned first-hand how a new stroke protocol she had heard about on the local news is working to get patients in Windsor-Essex quicker access to life-saving treatment.

Earlier this month, the new Windsor Regional Hospital stroke protocol which aims to improve door-to-needle time for stroke patients, was highlighted in local news stories. Days later, Mrs. W, a 57- year old homemaker, was driving with her mother and husband when she started swerving her car to the left. Her husband recognized the signs of stroke and called 911. When the paramedics arrived, Mrs. W asked if she was going to the District Stroke Centre to get the treatment she had seen on the news. As part of the new process, Emergency Medical Services workers alert a neurologist from the scene in the patient’s home or in this case from the side of the road. This from the field conversation helps pre-alert the hospital’s stroke processes so testing can be expedited and treatment decisions can be made more quickly once the patient arrives at the hospital. Mrs. W was taken to the Stroke Centre at the Ouellette Campus. Mrs. W relayed “After that it was quick, I remember going into the tube for a CT.” She then received a clot-busting drug known as tPA which can help reverse the devastating effects of a stroke if given within a narrow window of 4.5 hours after symptoms begin. This narrow window for treatment is one of the reasons why the new stroke protocol with paramedics supports improvements to door-to-needle time and getting patients quick access to treatment.

“It was so fast between the different areas in the hospital,” says Mrs. W, “then I was in the ICU. I was emotional when I got home and realized all that had happened” says Mrs. W. She says she is now feeling normal and credits good care and a quick, coordinated response for her outcome.