

Annual Report 2021/22

RESPONDING

TO THE PANDEMIC

LEADING

SYSTEM CHANGE

RESPONSIVE

LEADERSHIP

Rehabilitative care has played a critical role for patients and the health care system throughout multiple waves of the pandemic—helping people with COVID-19 to regain strength and function and helping an overwhelmed hospital system meet an urgent demand for beds.

Together with its members, the GTA Rehab Network responded to needs as they emerged, exploring new ways to coordinate care across the system. The Network also supported members as they adapted to a rapidly changing environment, providing them with timely data to support decision-making and bringing them together to share information and planning strategies.

As the focus shifts to health system recovery, the Network continues to build on its expertise in rehabilitative care and strong track record of collaborative action to lead system change.

Rehabilitative care... essential to a responsive and resilient health care system for the future.

RESPONDING

TO THE PANDEMIC

Facilitating emergency transfers

At the request of Ontario Health, the Network provided support to the GTA COVID-19 Incident Management System (IMS) table as it managed bed pressures in acute hospitals during the winter pandemic wave. Drawing on its knowledge of rehabilitative care data and operations, the Network provided critical support in the following areas:



PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE, REAL-TIME DATA

To inform the IMS directives, the Network collated data on anticipated admissions, discharges and bed availability across 10 rehab/CCC hospitals and specialized care centres twice a week. The data was essential: 430 patients were transferred to rehab/CCC in a two-month period to cope with the pandemic surge.



FACILITATING WEEKLY PROBLEM-SOLVING

The Network co-chaired a weekly huddle of rehab/CCC hospitals with Ontario Health to address concerns arising from transfers and other issues affecting bed capacity, such as changes to infection prevention and control measures.



MONITORING ALC RATES

The rapid, early transfer of high numbers of patients could have implications for ALC rates within rehab/CCC hospitals. The Network is monitoring patients transferred through IMS directives (e.g., how many are ALC and the reason) to determine any ongoing impact on patient flow as surgeries in acute care scale up.

Monitoring COVID-19 rehab utilization

Knowledge about COVID-19 has grown rapidly since the early days of the pandemic. But in the initial waves, little was known about the rehabilitation needs and resource utilization of patients with COVID-19. Responding to data as it emerged, the Network provided members with the following support:



SHARING INSIGHTS ON COVID-19 REHAB UTILIZATION

The Network analyzed monthly COVID-19 discharges from 15 rehab/CCC members for the first year of the pandemic, providing members with early indications of length of stay for COVID-19 patients to assist in planning.



TRACKING COVID-19 IMPACT ON REHAB VOLUMES

Through its ongoing quarterly analysis of outpatient rehabilitation data, the Network continues to track the impact of multiple pandemic waves on outpatient rehab volumes. The Network also continues its quarterly analysis of data on inpatient rehab volumes for hip fracture and is monitoring the pandemic's impact.



HELPING PROVIDERS FIND COVID-19 REHAB PROGRAMS

A significant number of patients with post COVID-19 condition require specialized rehab. The Network updated its searchable service directory, *Rehab Finder*, to help members find and refer to specialized post COVID-19 outpatient rehab programs.

Moving beyond the pandemic

The Network's 2022 Best Practices Day focused on the impact of COVID-19 across the system and the role rehabilitation can play in system recovery. The annual event attracted clinicians, researchers and health providers from across Canada and showcased best practices and recent innovations in rehabilitative care.

LEADING

SYSTEM CHANGE

Advocating for specialized rehabilitative care

Specialized rehabilitation is required for some rehabilitation populations to ensure good health outcomes and efficient care. As Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) assume responsibility for care delivery, the Network is taking a proactive role in education and advocacy so that patients who require specialized rehab are identified and referred appropriately. This leadership includes the following:



DEVELOPING GUIDANCE ON SPECIALIZED REHABILITATION FOR OHTS

Working with interprofessional working groups, the Network developed guidance for OHTs for 10 patient populations, such as acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury and amputation. Each resource includes details of the specialized rehabilitation program specific to that population and a detailed patient profile.



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SPECIALIZED REHAB

The Network hosted two well-attended webinars for front line clinicians and health care administrators on the role and value of specialized rehab and the relationship between OHTs and these specialized regional/provincial programs.



CLARIFYING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH OHTS

The Network is also playing an active role in applying this work provincially. For example, the Network participated in a Ministry of Health planning discussion on the intersection between specialized services and OHTs. The Network will also support the Rehabilitative Care Alliance in developing models that outline the relationship between specialized rehab programs and OHTs, including how OHTs may access specialized rehab for their patients.

RESPONSIVE AND

MEMBER-DRIVEN

GTA Rehab Network Member Organizations

Chair: Anne-Marie Malek

Vice-Chair: Dr. Mark Bayley

REHABILITATION/COMPLEX CONTINUING CARE HOSPITALS

Baycrest Health Sciences
Holland Bloorview Kids
Rehabilitation Hospital
Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Sinai Health System/
Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre/
St. John's Rehab Hospital
The Salvation Army Toronto
Grace Health Centre
Unity Health Toronto/
Providence Healthcare
University Health Network/
Toronto Rehab
West Park Healthcare Centre

ACUTE TEACHING HOSPITALS

Sinai Health System/
Mount Sinai Hospital
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Unity Health Toronto/
St. Michael's Hospital
University Health Network

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

Home and Community Care
Support Services Central
Home and Community Care
Support Services Central East
Home and Community Care
Support Services Central West
Home and Community Care
Support Services Mississauga Halton
Home and Community Care
Support Services Toronto Central

COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

Halton Healthcare
Humber River Hospital
Lakeridge Health
Mackenzie Health
Oak Valley Health (formerly
Markham Stouffville Hospital)
Michael Garron Hospital
North York General Hospital
Scarborough Health Network
Southlake Regional Health Centre
Trillium Health Partners
Unity Health Toronto/
St. Joseph's Health Centre
William Osler Health System

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Regional Geriatric
Program of Toronto
University of Toronto

GTA REHAB NETWORK STAFF

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Rehabilitative Care Alliance