



Media Release

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2016

Improving stroke care in Huron Perth

Exeter, ON – Huron Perth is playing an integral role in the South West Stroke Project that is realigning stroke care in the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to ensure people who have a stroke or TIA (transient ischemic attack or mini-stroke) receive the best possible stroke care, and achieve the best possible outcomes.

This project will see stroke expertise concentrated at seven Designated Stroke Centres with two of the seven Designated Stroke Centres in the Huron Perth area. One Designated Stroke Centre is located at Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance's Stratford General Hospital (HPHA – SGH) which provides tPA (the clot-busting drug) assessment and treatment, acute and rehabilitative stroke care, and a secondary stroke prevention clinic. The second Designated Stroke Centre in Huron Perth is located at Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich (AMGH) which provides tPA (the clot-busting drug) assessment and treatment via the Ontario Telestroke Program, then transfers patients to HPHA – SGH for the remainder of their acute care and, if required, rehabilitation on an integrated stroke unit.

Realignment of stroke care in Huron Perth to the District Stroke Centres will be complete in December 2016. For more information on the South West Stroke Project:

<http://swostroke.ca/about-swsp>

Quotes

“In realigning stroke services, we are helping to ensure people across our LHIN are getting equitable access to best practice stroke care. Stroke survivors have the best outcomes when they are cared for in a centre that specializes in stroke services and provides best practice care. These changes to how we deliver stroke care are helping to reduce mortality and improve the outcomes of stroke survivors throughout our geography.”

– Michael Barrett, CEO, South West LHIN

“The staff and physicians at South Huron Hospital Association recognize that timely access to specialized treatment for stroke care in the most appropriate hospital supports best practices and improves patient outcomes. Through ongoing collaboration, we continue to value the partnerships that we have cultivated with our healthcare partners.”

- Todd Stepanuik, President and CEO, South Huron Hospital Association

“People who are having the signs of stroke play an important role because with stroke, every minute counts. It is vitally important for people to call 911 immediately when the signs of stroke emerge.”

- Jeff Horseman Chief of Emergency Services, County of Huron

“Paramedics begin stroke care right away in the ambulance. They also alert the Designated Stroke Centre that a stroke patient is coming into the emergency department, so assessment and treatment can start moment the patient arrives.”

- Linda Rockwood, Director of Emergency Services, Chief Paramedic Services County of Perth

View the Huron Perth video about calling 911: [Stroke – Call 911](#).

Quick Facts

Each year in the South West LHIN about 3,500 people in emergency departments are diagnosed with a stroke/TIA (transient ischemic attack or mini-stroke), or a suspected stroke/TIA.

To improve care and outcomes, inpatient acute and rehabilitative stroke care in the South West LHIN will be realigned to the following Designated Stroke Centres by March 2017:

- London Health Sciences Centre’s University Hospital – hyperacute and acute
- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance’s Stratford General Hospital – hyperacute, acute and inpatient rehabilitation
- Grey Bruce Health Services’ Owen Sound Hospital - hyperacute, acute and inpatient rehabilitation
- St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital - acute and inpatient rehabilitation
- St. Joseph’s Health Care London’s Parkwood Institute – inpatient rehabilitation
- Woodstock Hospital – inpatient rehabilitation
- Alexandra Marine and General Hospital – telestroke services

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About the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network

The Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network (SWOSN) is 1 of 11 stroke networks in Ontario providing leadership and planning to implement best practice stroke care across the continuum of care. As part of the Ontario Stroke System, our vision is: Fewer Stroke. Better Outcomes. Our *mission* is to continuously improve stroke prevention, care, recovery and re-integration. This is achieved by collaborating with partners to re-organize stroke care delivery to ensure that all Ontarians have access to appropriate, quality stroke care in a timely manner. Visit <http://swostroke.ca> for more information.

About the South West Stroke Project

The South West Stroke Project is improving outcomes for people in the South West Local Health Integration Network who have a stroke or TIA (transient ischemic attack). Phase I of this project is focusing on realigning inpatient acute and rehabilitative care from 28 hospital sites to 7 Designated Stroke Centres. Phase II of this project is creating recommendations to enhance care for people with stroke and TIA after they leave the hospital; this includes secondary stroke prevention, outpatient and community rehabilitation and stroke recovery services. Visit <http://swostroke.ca/about-swsp/> for more information.

LEARN THE SIGNS OF STROKE

FACE is it drooping?

ARRMS can you raise both?

SPEECH is it slurred or jumbled?

TIME to call 9-1-1 right away.

ACT **F A S T** BECAUSE THE QUICKER YOU ACT,
THE MORE OF THE PERSON YOU SAVE.

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