

The GTA Rehab Network is a recognized regional leader in improving the planning and delivery of rehabilitative care. We work collaboratively with our members and the GTA LHINs to develop and implement innovative solutions that advance best practices and increase efficiencies across the system. Here's what we're working on:

Developing inter-organizational transfer of accountability (TOA) guidelines

We're developing a guideline for inter-organizational transfer of accountability to support effective transitions and improve patient safety. The guideline is informed by data and best practices.

What we've done

- Established a reporting template/process to report TOA issues for patients requiring readmission to acute care from inpatient rehab/CCC.
- Worked with six rehab/CCC hospitals to gather data on TOA issues arising in the reverse direction, i.e., when patients are transferred to inpatient rehab/CCC from acute care.
- Convened representatives from Home and Community Care across the five GTA LHINs to discuss TOA issues experienced by the in-home sector.

What we're working on now

- Working with Home and Community Care in the GTA LHINs to survey contracted rehab care service providers on their experiences with rehab referrals. Home and community care working group to identify improvement strategies (or best practices) based on key issues identified in the survey results.
- Convening hospital and home and community care working groups to collectively identify and confirm best practices for the TOA guideline.

Identifying unmet need for outpatient rehab

We're working with our members to analyze demand and unmet need for outpatient rehabilitation to support hospitals and LHINs in capacity planning for community-based rehab.

What we've done

- Worked with seven hospitals in the TC LHIN to gather and analyze detailed data on access to outpatient rehab services for all population groups.
- Engaged Network members across other GTA LHINs to expand participation.

What we're working on now

- Analyzing the data (from over 3,000 referrals) to produce an environmental scan of demand and unmet need. Data will be shared with the hospitals and the LHINs.

Addressing needs of complex hip fracture/stroke patients

We're working with the Toronto Stroke Networks to identify more streamlined care pathways for hip fracture and stroke patients with complex needs.

What we've done

- Convened a think tank of front line staff and managers from across the five GTA LHINs.
- Worked with them to create a detailed framework that identifies the complex psychosocial, functional and medical issues that contribute to extended hospital stays for these patients.
- Identified a broad range of ideas to begin to address these issues.

What we're working on now

- Undertaking a review of the literature regarding best practices for non-weight bearing patients
- Engaging a clinical working group to scope a demonstration project and collect baseline data focused on improving flow for hip fracture patients with weight-bearing restrictions following surgery.

Implementing provincial definitions frameworks

We're increasing consistency and standardization across levels of rehabilitative care by helping our members adopt and apply the frameworks developed by the Rehabilitative Care Alliance.

What we've done

- Worked with RM&R in the Toronto Central and Central LHINs to update the system (by end of this fiscal year) to align with the levels of rehabilitative care in the RCA's *Definitions Framework for Bedded Levels of Rehabilitative Care*.
- Worked with rehab/CCC hospitals in Toronto Central LHIN to categorize bedded and community-based programs according to the framework.

What we're working on now

- Updating *Rehab Finder*, the Network's online database of rehab programs, to align with the frameworks.

Optimizing rehabilitative care in member organizations

We're working with Lakeridge Health and Scarborough and Rouge Hospital to develop a plan to optimize rehabilitative care services in their organizations.

What we've done

- Procured a consulting firm to support this initiative and guided them in developing the project approach and work plan.
- Developed briefing notes for executive sponsors and key stakeholders, confirmed project approach and work plan and presented update to the CE LHIN Rehab Steering Committee.

What we're working on now

- Reviewing literature/documents to shape the vision/ideal state.
- Scheduling working sessions with internal and external stakeholders.

Supporting knowledge exchange of best practices

Each year, we host Best Practices Day to expose clinicians, researchers and policy/management professionals to the latest best practices and innovations in rehabilitation.

What we've done

- Hosted Best Practices Day 2018, attracting more than 200 participants and 61 submitted abstracts.

What we're working on now

- Planning for the 2019 event.

Visit gtarehabnetwork.ca for more information about our activities.