A Multimodal Approach to Improve the Management of Stroke Patients

Beatrise Edelstein BSc PT, MHSc; Sreeja Sivanantham RN, BScN, MScN; Jessie Leung OCT, SLP (C), Reg. CASLPO; Peggy Yiptong RD; Andrew Lockwood PT, MPT, DPT; Syed Tirmizi RN, BN, BSc(C); Alin Khodaverdian BSc, MScOT; Beatrise Edelstein BSc PT, MHSc; Sreeja Sivanantham RN, BScN, MScN; Jessie Leung OCT, SLP (C), Reg. CASLPO; Peggy Yiptong RD; Andrew Lockwood PT, MPT, DPT; Syed Tirmizi RN, BN, BSc(C); Alin Khodaverdian BSc, MScOT

Description

The interdisciplinary stroke team is continuously engaged in innovative initiatives focused on improving patient and family experience on an Acute Stroke Unit (ASU). Toronto Stroke Network disseminates best practice recommendations and quality metrics to hospitals in order for institutions to target quality improvement initiatives to meet standards of care. An interdisciplinary team, including nurses and allied health, collaborated to perform a gap analysis on stroke care and develop an action plan. The team utilized multiple strategies to fulfill quality metric targets.

Actions Taken

The team developed issues to action plans and prioritized the following stroke best practice initiatives for implementation:

- Revision of the stroke order set.
- Updating dysphagia tool.
- Improving stroke pathway.
- Creation of an ASU admission and transfer criteria.

Development of an interdisciplinary stroke flowsheet specifying roles and responsibilities.
- Deploying patient and family-centred education materials.
- Flagging stroke patients using a visual “brain” symbol to track in the centralized electronic system.

Summary of Results

- Staff reported greater awareness and knowledge of stroke best practices.
- 90% of staff completed dysphagia screening refresher contributing to a 13% increase in dysphagia screening of eligible patients.
- 20% increase in the number of patients receiving care on ASU post-implementation of ASU admission and transfer criteria.
- Greater adherence to stroke best practices by the healthcare team supported by the interdisciplinary stroke flowsheet.

Figure 1. Stroke Unit Quality Initiatives were categorized into four themes. The interdisciplinary team prioritized the actions to achieve quality metric recommendations from the Toronto Stroke Network.

Figure 2. Dysphagia screening refreshers delivered over the course of 2020/21 FY, contributed to a 13% increase in dysphagia screening of patients with an acute inpatient stay.

Figure 3. The creation of the ASU Admission and Transfer criteria positively contributed to the number of acute stroke patients receiving specialized stroke care on ASU by the skilled interdisciplinary healthcare providers.