

A Multimodal Approach to Improve the Management of Stroke Patients



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



Lessons Learned

Prioritizing stroke quality improvement initiatives enabled the inter-professional team to meet best practice standards and improve the quality of care for stroke patients.

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 and issues to action plan. The team utilized multiple strategies to fulfill quality metric targets.

Actions Taken

The team developed issues to actions 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.

- Developing 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.

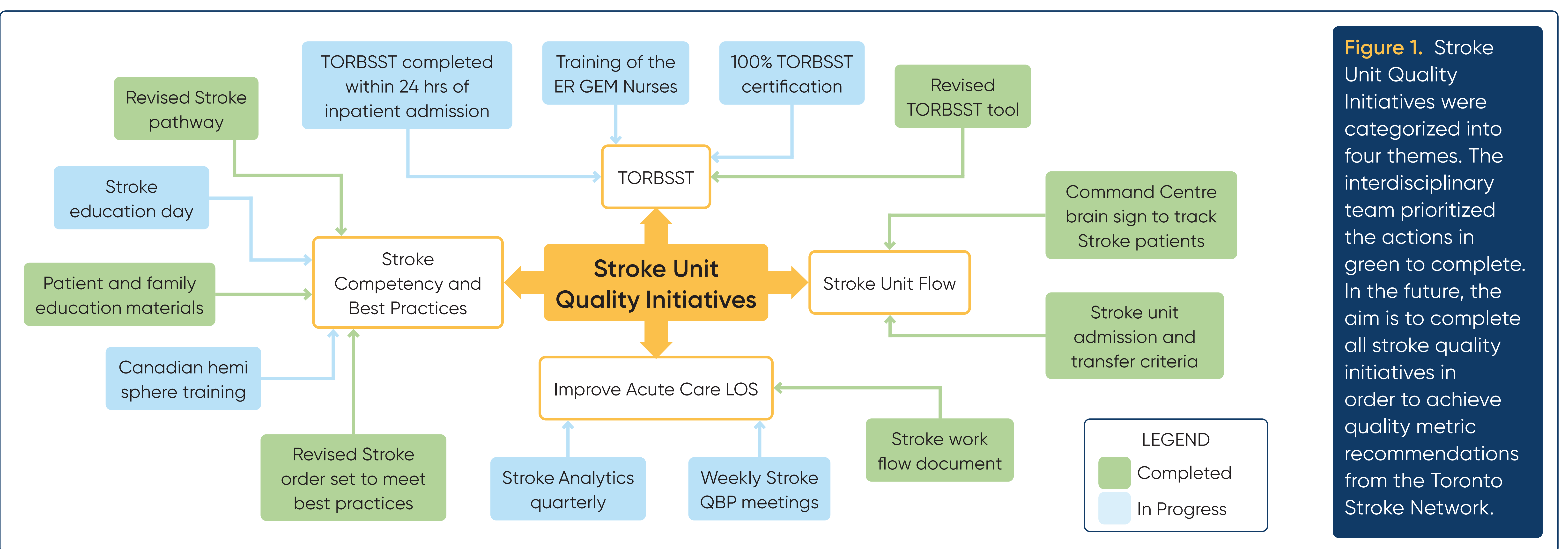


Figure 1. Stroke Unit Quality Initiatives were categorized into four themes. The interdisciplinary team prioritized the actions in green to complete. In the future, the aim is to complete all stroke quality initiatives in order to achieve quality metric recommendations from the Toronto Stroke Network.

