

Strategic Clinical Networks

Quality Improvement & Clinical Research (QuICR)

The Goal

During a stroke, time is brain. With 2 million neurons dying on average per minute as long as the main brain artery is blocked, brain injury progresses extremely quickly following a stroke.

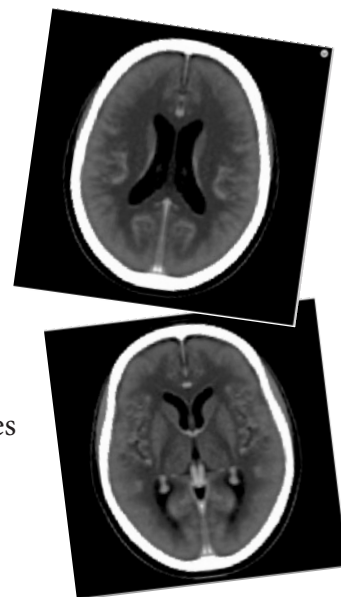


Quality Improvement & Clinical Research (QuICR), Alberta Stroke Program, is a program aimed at improving stroke outcomes across Alberta through rapid diagnosis and treatment.

For acute strokes, this means opening the blocked artery as quickly as possible by improving the time from when a stroke patient arrives at the hospital to when they receive the 'clot busting drug' called tPA. This is called door-to needle (DTN) time. QuICR aims to lower the DTN time to a median of 30 minutes across Alberta with 90 percent of the patients being treated within 60 minutes.

The Process

Currently, 17 hospitals across Alberta are participating in QuICR, representing all stroke centres in the province. Implementation includes four face-to-face workshops, webinars and site visits. This is a yearlong project that will have continued support.



The Outcome

Since its launch in September 2015, QuICR has already made significant improvements in DTN time for stroke patients.

Date	Median DTN time	Patient treated in < 60 minutes
2012	68 minutes	39%
October 2015	43 minutes	70%
November 2015	38 minutes	81%
December 2015	31.5 minutes	78.8%
January 2016	32 minutes	81.1%

The Team

QuICR has partnered with the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke Strategic Clinical Network, and all 17 hospitals that are stroke centres in Alberta to improve DTN times and outcomes for stroke patients. This core team is also collaborating with the Emergency Strategic Clinical Network, Alberta Radiologists and the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business.