

This special edition of the Stroke Program, Edmonton Zone (SPEZ) quarterly newsletter is devoted to an overview of the results and our planned next stages from the Edmonton Rehabilitation Summit held on September 14, 2012. Enjoy!

Edmonton Rehabilitation Summit

Led by a facilitation team from Calgary, the Stroke Program, Edmonton Zone embarked on a day to review the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations for Rehabilitation and discuss opportunities for improving practice. Participants from all stroke rehabilitation service delivery sites/services across the care continuum were invited, with attendance coming from all AHS sites as well as community/non-AHS services. Although coming from different practice experiences and settings, participants identified common issues and concerns. These were then categorized into the following 6 major improvement opportunities:

- **Partnerships and Communication**
- **Clinical Practice and Intensity**
- **Patient Education and Support**
- **Access**
- **Funding**
- **Transitions**

Participants then divided themselves into working groups under each of these categories and identified a number of projects which they felt would help to improve practice as it now stands.

Some groups clearly identified the teams that would be willing to assist, as well as set time-lines for achieving their goals, where others identified more generalized tasks.

Luchie Swinton, the Rehabilitation Lead for APSS, and the Calgary Facilitation Team generated a complete report of the session which I have attached here for your interest.



Edmonton Stroke
Rehab Summit Report

Next Steps?

As mentioned at the Summit, it would be impossible for our small staff to take on all of the projects listed at once. However, as we reviewed the report and looked at all of the groups concerns and recommendations together, it became readily apparent that there were a number of common issues, as well as common projects, between the groups that we could immediately focus on.

Across categories was the need expressed for better communication regarding available programs, educational opportunities, and general stroke information; not just for the healthcare provider, but also the patient and family, general public, and outside agencies. We felt that the most obvious and best way to provide this would be to have a website devoted to the Stroke Program where we could provide up to date information on the available services within the Edmonton Zone, as well as vital links to already existing sites. We are currently hard at work with AHS to establish a website and will be seeking your input on content in the future.

In the meantime, we will continue to expand measures already in place such as this special edition of the SPEZ BUZZ and our Edmonton Stroke Rehabilitation Rounds to increase awareness of available services and programs.

There were a number of concerns and recommendations that had also come up at the Alberta Stroke Improvement (ASI) sessions and have active working groups. One of these was the development of a standardized discharge package for patients which was facilitated by our office and is currently available.

It is a very exciting time to be involved in Stroke Care! If you would like to help or have any questions/concerns about the process, please feel free to contact our office at 780-407-3041 and keep your eyes on future SPEZ BUZZ editions for updates on these initiatives.