

December 2004

Improving Patient Access

Where CCN Fits Into The New Provincial Wait List Strategy

Strategic Planning completed by the Board in September came at a critical moment to share our ideas and future directions with the Health Results Team Wait List Lead Dr. Alan Hudson, assisted by Dr. Peter Glynn and Rachel Solomon, MOHLTC. Key strategic directions for the next 3 years are:

- › strengthen existing abilities to facilitate and monitor access to cardiac services
- › be recognized as a provincial resource for cardiac information/advice
- › define appropriate range of cardiac services to monitor along continuum
- › enhance range of information/support provided to member hospitals
- › improve communication to and among member hospitals
- › influence development of provincial wait list solution
- › champion and assist MOHLTC with development of provincial cardiac plan

When CCN's Board and Drs. Hudson and Glynn met in November, CCN was mandated by Dr. Hudson to assume a leadership role in active management of wait lists, with a first priority being reduction of regional disparities in wait lists. Over the next several months, CCN is developing a plan to address this new mandate.

CCN IN THE NEWS

› CCN assisted Diana Swain of CBC's *The National*, in the production of a 6 minute prime time segment on how patients access Ontario's cardiac services. Thanks to Kathleen Brown, Regional Cardiac Care Co-ordinator and Sunnybrook & Women's for their help.

This coverage was extremely valuable and although it did not include our references to the regional disparity in wait times, it did accurately tell the patient's story and CCN's part.

› *Macleans* Magazine and many major newspapers have included references to CCN in their reporting on wait time issues in the past 6 months. Our media coverage is carefully monitored for accuracy - and we have had several opportunities to assist media in finding correct information after stories have appeared.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS

› **Amanda Dean**, CCN Director of Clinical Practice, accepted a new position in November. We understand that she is not missing the long commute one little bit! Good luck Amanda and thank you.

› **Dr. Eric Cohen**, Chair, CCN Clinical Services Committee, head of the Cath Lab at Sunnybrook & Women's, has resigned his Board position in order to take on the role of Medical Officer immediately. His primary function will be to assist in preparing CCN input to Dr. Hudson's team. Eric's clinical experience and knowledge of cardiac systems in Canada and internationally will position us well.

› **Dr. Charlie Lazzam**, CCN Board Director, Cath Lab Director, Trillium Health Centre, has been appointed to the Executive Committee to fill the position vacated by Dr. Cohen.

WHAT'S NEW?

› **www.ccn.on.ca** Early in 2005 we will launch an improved website, making navigation and information retrieval much simpler. CCN's website currently receives 250 visitors a day, who stay an average of 12 minutes. At least 16% of these visitors are from outside Canada.

› **Personal Health Information Protection Act (Bill 31)** PHIPA came into force in November 2004 and CCN is designated as a registry. This means that we are empowered to collect, use and disclose personal health information in authorized circumstances. We will seek counsel from the Privacy Commissioner during the 'Phase-In' year to ensure CCN policies and procedures are appropriate. The Director of I & IT, Joyce Seto, has been appointed CCN's privacy officer.

› **Position Openings in January 2005** — see details on website, contact bvozzolo@ccn.on.ca for further information, or send your resume.

› **Chart Audit** results will be shared in early 2005 with CCN committees and member hospitals.

› **Annual Report 2003/04** e. version available: <http://www.ccn.on.ca/publications/ar-2003-2004.pdf>

› Sign up for e.news! mail@ccn.on.ca, now sent to subscribers internationally



CCN Sponsors Education Session on Wait Times

At the Ontario Hospitals Association Conference in November, following presentations on 'Who We Are', 'What We Do', and 'How We Do It' - panelists Dr. Bob McMurtry, Health Council of Canada, Ella Ferris, St. Michaels Hospital, Peter Finkle, MOHLTC, Dr. Peter Glynn, Health Results Team, and Drs. Teoh, Cohen and Glasgow representing CCN, discussed ways to improve access to care.

CCN Speakers at OHA Conference

Front Row Kevin Teoh, Eric Cohen, Peter Glynn

Back Row Ben Vozzolo, Terri Swabey, Peter Finkle, Joyce Seto, Ella Ferris, Kevin Glasgow, Bob McMurtry

PROJECT & PANEL REPORT UPDATES

STAND-ALONE ANGIOPLASTY EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

JULY 2004

Based on the recommendations of the External Evaluation Steering Committee, the MOHLTC has asked CCN to assess the feasibility of reconvening the Steering Committee to undertake an additional six-month evaluation to provide a further analysis related to safety and efficacy of the project in a larger sample size and case mix of patients. A risk analysis will accompany this extended evaluation. Thanks to **Dr. Frank Markel**, *Chair*, and members of the Steering Committee for agreeing to participate in this continued evaluation. It is hoped that the final report will be publicly released in the latter half of 2005.

ACCESS TO URGENT ANGIOPLASTY FOR ST SEGMENT ELEVATION MI (STEMI) CONSENSUS PANEL REPORT

APRIL 2004

Since the submission of this report, the MOHLTC has requested the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) to undertake further study (completed by Dec. 2004) on fibrinolysis and the MOHLTC has surveyed cardiac centres to identify feasibility and resource requirements to provide services on a 24/7 basis.

DATA DEFINITIONS REVIEW WORKING GROUP

In October 2004, CCN set up a working group to systematically review all the CCN data fields and definitions for cath, PCI and CABG. They will address issues of data quality, appropriateness, and standardization. Chaired by **Ella Ferris**, St. Michael's Hospital, the group is representative of CCN stakeholders, and includes representatives from APPROACH, ICONS, the CCS "Access to Care" Initiative, and the MOHLTC Provincial Wait Times Strategy Initiative. The complete review, recommendations and final data dictionary will be ready in late 2005.

ADVISORY PANEL ON PROPHYLACTIC ICDS AND RESYNCHRONIZATION THERAPY for Management of Patients with Left Ventricular Dysfunction and Heart Failure DEC 2002

Recommendations from this CCN Panel, which called for an increase in funded ICD implants and expanded inclusion criteria based on a review of clinical trials, are still pending policy decisions. Since the submission of this report, additional ICD reviews have been undertaken including a report by the MOHLTC Medical Advisory Secretariat and a soon to be released report by a MOHLTC working group, chaired by Dr. W. Keon.

TARGET SETTING CONSENSUS PANEL MARCH 2004

Since the submission of this report, funding for an additional 36,000 cardiac procedures by 2007/08 has been announced by MOHLTC.