

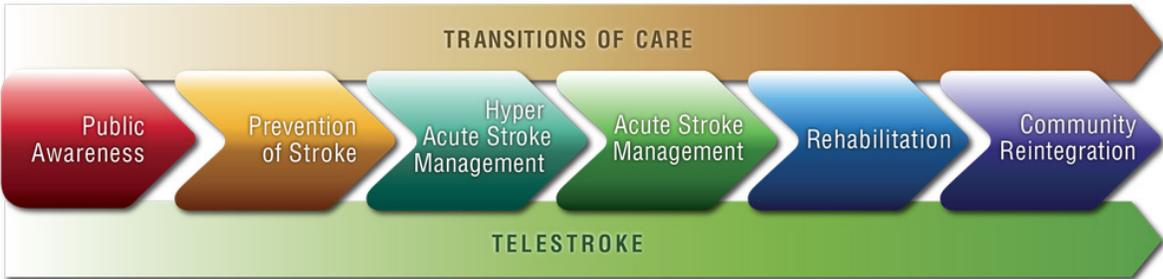


# Stroke Services BC leads provincial efforts to reorganize and optimize stroke care delivery in BC in order to provide high-quality evidence-based stroke care for all British Columbians.

In BC 8,100 patients are hospitalized with stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) every year. Shifting demographics and increasing burden of chronic disease have seen year over year increases in admissions for stroke, including TIA (a small, temporary stroke). Nearly one in four affected by stroke is under 65 years of age. The rate of stroke admissions between men and women is fairly equal.

## How we serve the people of BC:

- ➔ Stroke Services BC (SSBC) works to improve stroke care for all British Columbians, through leadership and governance, partnerships with regional health authorities, focus on best practices, knowledge translation and system transformation, and evaluation and surveillance.
- ➔ SSBC partners closely with regional health authorities, BC Emergency Health Services and a wide variety of other partners to improve care, leading provincial evaluations, large-scale system change initiatives and support for provincial planning and strategy for ongoing improvements in stroke care.
- ➔ Within its mandate is the entire stroke care continuum system of care.



Credit for graphic to [www.strokebestpractices.ca](http://www.strokebestpractices.ca)



**75**  
new dedicated stroke beds added since 2011



**1,500**  
health authority staff who have taken part in a web-based training module to enhance stroke care



## Supporting health care providers, patients and families:

### The Provincial Stroke Steering Committee helps to set current and future priorities for stroke care and to address emerging issues, challenges and opportunities in stroke care. Key activities in the following areas are planned for 2018/19:

- Optimizing virtual health strategies to support stroke care
- Ongoing improvements in stroke unit care
- Continuing to improve access to emergency treatments for ischemic stroke (specifically tPA – a clot busting drug, and endovascular therapy – a clot-retrieval therapy)
- Improving care for people who have experienced a TIA

The BC Acute Stroke Care Tiers of Service articulates the roles and expectations of every facility in BC in managing an individual experiencing an acute stroke or TIA. These Tiers of Service will be used to support care across emergency and acute care and support facilities across BC to improve the way they deliver care for people experiencing a stroke.

Aside from improving the clinical experience for people with stroke, SSBC also addresses supporting components to care. For example, significant work is being undertaken to improve stroke data collection and reporting, including the addition of stroke specific fields into routine administrative data collection; regular reporting on key stroke indicators; and the development of a hyperacute stroke treatment registry to provide detailed data-driven feedback on these time-sensitive interventions.

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## Highlights

SSBC has completed two significant provincial evaluations – one on stroke rehabilitation and the other on TIA clinics and services. Both of these reports indicated significant areas for improvement to better align with stroke care best practice recommendations.

SSBC has led three large-scale change initiatives, called Collaboratives, using an Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) model. Each Collaborative has resulted in significant advancements in care:

The Collaboratives brought teams together from across the province to focus of quality improvement work in specific topic areas:

- emergency department management of stroke and TIA,
- acute stroke unit care,
- rehabilitation.

In addition, SSBC provided leadership to implement Endovascular Therapy (EVT) when it became standard of care in 2015. This intervention is available at three sites in BC, with ongoing work to improve access to this therapy.

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### Stroke Services BC

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- [www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/stroke-services-bc](http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/stroke-services-bc)
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