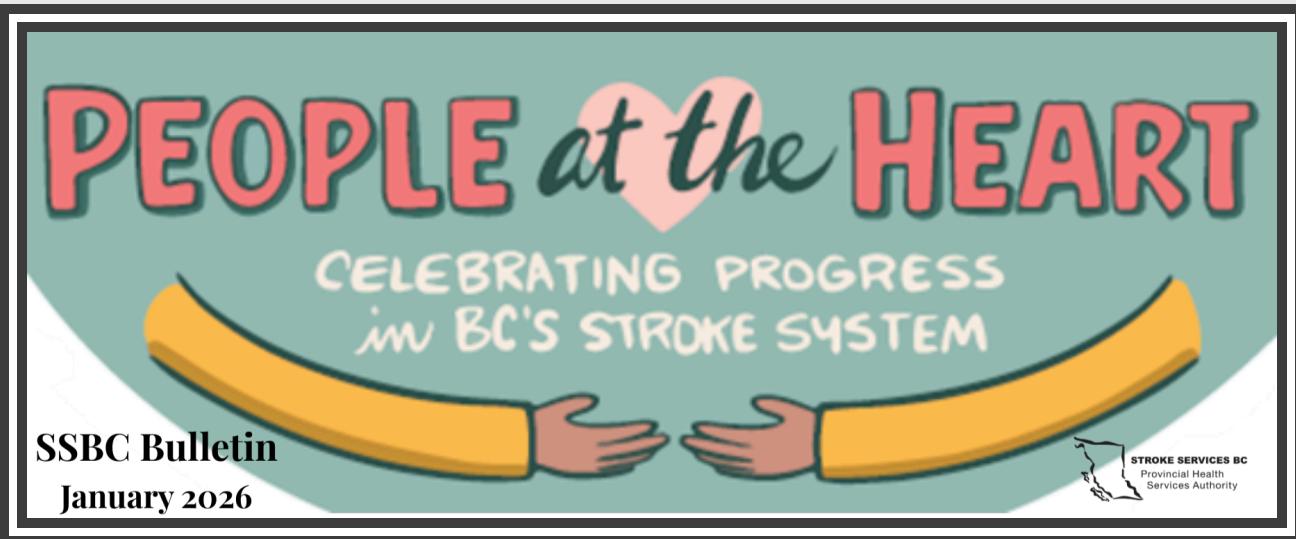


[View this email in your browser](#)



Stroke Services BC 2025 Highlights

We are proud to share our 2025 highlights
in collaboration with our partners

Stroke Services BC (SSBC) is a PHSA Health Improvement Network

We work with partners across the province and nationally to optimize outcomes for people experiencing stroke. This is done through:

- Provincial leadership and strategy
- Quality standards and system performance monitoring
- Clinical improvement initiatives and clinical guidelines
- Strategic partnerships across the care continuum

Our Vision: Fewer strokes. Better outcomes.

Over the past year we have focused on 4 key priorities:

1. Enhancing stroke unit care
2. Facilitating hyperacute care through rapid diagnosis and appropriate treatment with EVT and thrombolysis
3. Provincial clinical education
4. Improving data & clinical quality metrics

Enhancing Stroke Unit Care

Background:

Stroke unit care is a highly effective, evidence based approach that reduces stroke related illness and death by up to 30%. These benefits apply to all patients—regardless of age, sex, stroke type, or severity. Studies show that for every 100 patients treated in a dedicated stroke unit, there are two more survivors, six more patients able to return home, and six more who regain independence compared with patients receiving general care. SSBC is working with health authority partners across B.C. through the Enhancing Stroke Unit Care Initiative to increase access to this proven model of care.

The goal of the initiative is to expand access to stroke unit care and support consistent use of the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations by building capacity and supporting site level quality improvement. This ensures more patients receive specialized, coordinated stroke care that improves outcomes.

Progress in 2025:

- 12 of 14 stroke unit sites completed the 24-month quality improvement (QI) cycle; the final 2 are expected to be completed by summer 2026.
- 893 improvement projects have been completed by frontline clinicians to date including:
 - Implementation of best practices
 - Increased stroke knowledge and competency
 - Increased staff engagement and communication
 - Improved patient transition to rehab
- A comprehensive evaluation of the initiative is underway to determine impact.
 - Some early successes:
 - More patients are receiving evidence-based stroke unit care
 - Site based teams have reported increased confidence and team morale

Facilitating Hyperacute Care through Rapid Diagnosis and Appropriate Treatment with EVT and Thrombolysis

Through the Provincial Clinical Advisory Committee the following guidelines were developed and launched (click on the links below):

- [Provincial Stroke Triage & Transport Guideline \(2025 update\)](#)
- [FAST-VAN Position Statement \(2025\)](#)
- [TNK Position Statement \(2025\)](#)

Improving Data & Clinical Quality Metrics

By building a strong provincial system to measure and monitor performance using high quality, standardized data, SSBC will be able to track how stroke services are functioning, identify gaps, compare results to best practices, and focus quality improvement efforts where they are most needed. We have been working to:

- Increase access to timely data
- Enhance data quality

Published Work:

SSBC's Clinical Nurse Specialist, Alison de Wit, co-authored a paper this year. Congratulations!

- [Trends and Drivers of Declining Stroke Mortality in British Columbia](#)

- Establish cross continuum indicators
- Launch a provincial dashboard (coming soon)

Stroke Patient Reported Outcomes

In partnership with UBC and VCH, stroke patients have been completing survey packages at one month, 6 months and 12 months. Using standardized measures, the surveys gather information on perceived quality of life, function and other demographic information. In 2025, the partnership expanded to include Interior Health; with patient surveys starting to be collected this winter.

Provincial Clinical Education

Key accomplishments of 2025:

- Development of stroke unit care core competency frameworks for nursing and allied health (OT, PT, SLP)
- Hosted virtual clinical education sessions. The intended audience is clinical staff (nursing and allied health), but all are welcome.
 - 22 education sessions to date with a total of 1253 attendees
 - Topics included:
 - Gender issues in stroke care
 - Experience of young adult stroke survivors in BC
 - AlphaFIM - strategies, tips & resources
 - Acute non-arteritic central retinal artery occlusion
 - Exercise, cognitive health, and vascular cognitive impairment
 - Addressing driving after stroke
 - After Stroke BC
 - Stroke Recovery Association of BC
 - Telerehabilitation

Missed a session? Check out the recordings!

A heartfelt thank you to our partners for working alongside us!

Your collaboration and commitment are guiding this work forward and making a real impact!



STROKE SERVICES BC
Provincial Health
Services Authority

Our mailing address is:
Suite 200 -1333 W Broadway,
Vancouver, BC
V6H 4C1

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)