



MNCYN & LHSC COVID-19
Weekly Perinatal Regional
Teleconference Update
Minutes



Date: May 25, 2020
1500-1600 hrs.

Moderators: Leanne McArthur, Gwen Peterek

Present: Gwen Peterek, Kristine Fraser, Caroline Proctor (MOH), Mary Rae (Hanover), Stacy Laureano (LHSC), Henry Roukema (LHSC NICU), Sheila Johnston (MNCYN), Anita Bunnie (MNCYN), Tijana Antic (MOH), Michelle Basacco (LHSC), Kerri Hannon (HPHA), Colleen Ford (Owen Sound), Kelly Barzsa (Cambridge), Amanda Williams (LHSC), Jocelyn Patton-Audette (Owen Sound), Alissa Howe-Poisson (CKHA), Jackie Koufie (STEGH), (unidentified call-in)

Item #1: Welcome/Regional Updates, COVID-19 Cases (Gwen Peterek)

Welcome: Once again Leanne McArthur sends her regrets for today's meeting. Gwen Peterek, Perinatal Nurse Consultant with the MNCYN program moderated the meeting.

- **Regional Covid-19 cases update:**

LOCATION	CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS	OTHER STATS
LONDON-MIDDLESEX	501	366	50	2 new, 1 death since yesterday
WINDSOR-ESSEX	912	479	63	
CHATHAM-KENT	143	115	1	
ST. THOMAS	72	57	4	
LAMBTON	248	177	21	
HURON-PERTH	51	44	5	
GREY-BRUCE	91	82	0	
MICHIGAN	54,365		1,320	
• DETROIT	10,669		1,322	
ONTARIO	25,904	19,698	2,102	404 new cases (1.6 % increase) 859 in hospital 148 ICU 114 Vent
CANADA				

- We have been noticing fewer people on our calls, which we are assuming is a good thing, meaning that people are pretty much settled in their protocols and practices for perinatal care as it relates to COVID.
- To assess the participant preferences, Gwen conducted a poll asking the following questions:



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1. Do you find the Perinatal Weekly Update calls still beneficial to you?
2. Would you want to continue with these calls:
 - a. Monday & Friday
 - b. Just Monday
 - c. Just Friday
3. How long would you prefer the calls to be?
 - a. 30 minutes
 - b. 60 minutes

Initial polling results indicate that 60% indicated the weekly update calls were still beneficial, Monday was the preferred date (60%) and of 30 minutes duration (60%). We will confirm the results with the tally from those on the phone who are sending their emails and let you know in the next day or so what the consensus was and when the next meeting will be.

Newborn Hearing Screening:

- Last Friday Gwen mentioned to those on the call that we had recently received feedback from Tihana Antic (MOH) as to how things are being managed concerning Newborn Hearing Screening during COVID.
- Briefly, infant hearing program (IHP) is run across the province by 12 regional lead agencies, most of whom have suspended newborn hearing screening pre-discharge from both hospitals and community locations. Newborn Screening Ontario is continuing, though, to screen newborns for congenital Cytomegalovirus and genetic risk factors for hearing loss during the COVID-19 outbreak and providing IHP lead agencies with positive risk factor screen results. Lead agencies are recording positive risk factor screen results and working collaboratively with Newborn Screening Ontario to provide follow up services for these children.
- It varies, though, from agency to agency as to how families are being contacted regarding getting the screening for their babies completed. Also, there was some concern since the equipment used for infant hearing supports testing for infants only up to 2 months of age. Whether there will be testing offered after 2 months depends on the agency.
- Gwen has reached out to Stacy McDougall, Manager at Thames Valley Children's Centre, which is the Lead Agency for the SW Infant Hearing Program, to try to try to get more specific answers to the questions for our region. In the meantime, the Ministry of children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) encourages us to:
 - Raise public awareness of hearing and hearing loss directly with families
 - Encourage families who have not been offered a physiological hearing screen to monitor early child development; and
 - Encourage them to speak to their family physician or paediatrician if a concern about their child's hearing arises.



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- Tihana Antic (MOH) was on the call but had nothing more to add to Gwen's comprehensive recap.

Upcoming Webinar:

- Reminder of a Webinar to be hosted by the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, focusing on healthcare workers' mental health during and after COVID-19 today from 6:00PM to 7:30 PM EST. Topics will include:
 - "Maintaining Resilience During (and After) a Pandemic: A Stress Vaccine for Health Care Workers"
 - "How to mitigate post-traumatic stress injury and promote post traumatic growth in healthcare in the face of a pandemic or disaster"
 - "Professional Wellbeing and Peer Support: building and growing a wellness initiative"
 - "Twenty-minute guided mindfulness meditation practice"
 - "Personal perspective from the front-line" (Dr. Jon Barrett, MD)

Resources:

Under Perinatal: We have posted the updated version of the MOH Labour, Delivery and Newborn Guidance re: COVID 19 (May 19). An email with this information was also sent to all the Perinatal Nurse Leaders in the region to share with their teams.

Action Items:

- **Gwen Peterek to follow up with Thames Valley Children's Centre as to specifics of infant hearing screening for our region.**
- **MNCYN will post answers to infant hearing screening on the FAQ document**

Item #3: LHSC Updates:

- **Stacy Laureano:** Nothing since Friday, maintaining status quo
- **Henry Roukema:** No response

Action Items: None

Item #4: Regional Q&A:

- Last Friday Kerri Hannon from Stratford asked if any other hospitals have started to consider how they will re-open some of their services and safely move back into practices previously put on hold due to COVID. Obviously, we need MOH approval to ramp-up and we need to consider what that will look like in terms of overall bed capacity as we still recognize that there will be a need to have availability for potential CV cases, especially given that we anticipate a 2nd wave of CV potentially sometime between Sept. – Nov. Some organizations are still planning to continue with their usual summer reduction of services. It is anticipated that it will take at least 2 years if not longer before we recover from the reduction of services that we have seen.



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- We had received some feedback from LHSC and Owen Sound last week, I am wondering if any of our other hospitals have given much consideration to plans to ramp up yet?
- **Jackie Koufie (St. Thomas):** Pre-admits are done online and over the phone. Jackie to get back to Gwen as to how they plan to ramp up services.
- **Amanda Williams (LHSC):** We are not looking at ramping up at this point past what we are already doing; we are continuing with the recommendations we have put into place. LHSC has a challenge in that there is shared space between OBS and GYN. Right now we are focusing more on GYN patients that have been waiting for a long time before coming in for their procedures. OBS patients continue to see their physicians, so we are prioritizing the GYN patients now.
- **Mary Rae (Hanover):** We have thought about ramping up, currently all our outpatient OB patients are with family health team. They stay in the car until they get called in for their appointments.
- No other questions or comments

Action Items: None

Adjournment: 1521 H. Watch for updates on meetings.