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PROGRESS REPORT ON YORK REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENHANCED CARDIAC CARE DELIVERY

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated December 18, 2009, from the General Manager of Emergency Medical Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides an update to Council on the progress of cardiac care provided by York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paramedics resulting from the introduction of specialized cardiac programs.

3. BACKGROUND

York Region EMS has participated in specialized cardiac care program since March 2008

ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (heart attack) is a condition that is best treated with Heart Catheterization Services, which involves a medical procedure or the administration of clot dissolving medications. The specialized cardiac care program allows paramedics, upon identifying a patient with a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, to bypass hospitals in York Region and South Simcoe and transport patients directly to the Catheterization Lab at Southlake Regional Health Center. To date, 118 patients have been transported directly to the Catheterization Lab since March 2008.

In addition, on October 23, 2008, Regional Council authorized York Region EMS's participation, in partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre, in the Strategic Reperfusion Early After Myocardial (STREAM) Infarction Study. As a result, York Region EMS was able to enhance delivery of cardiac services to patients. Under the STREAM protocol, a patient may immediately receive clot dissolving medication in the field while being taken directly to the Catheterization Lab at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The partnership between Southlake Regional Health Centre and York Region EMS has resulted in the provision of sophisticated clinical care for victims of heart attacks

York Region EMS formally partnered in the STREAM Study Project with Southlake Regional Health Centre in March 2009 to deliver the clot dissolving medications in the field to patients experiencing a heart attack. The study is comparing the administration of medication in the field versus transferring a heart attack victim directly to Heart Catheterization Services. As of the end of November 2009, York Region EMS paramedics have successfully enrolled nine patients in the STREAM trial. York Region is only one of two sites in Canada participating in this study. The aim of the study is to enrol 1,000 patients in each treatment protocol. Once the study is complete, the data will be evaluated to determine if this treatment improves patient outcomes.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada has adopted time targets for the treatment of heart attack victims consistent with other international organizations

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada recommends that a patient requiring Heart Catheterization Services should receive care within 90 minutes of arrival in an emergency department.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

York Region EMS is delivering patients requiring specialized cardiac care an average of 38 minutes faster than the target time

York Region EMS has consistently transported patients requiring specialized cardiac care faster than the targeted time. The average time from EMS point of contact to arrival at the Southlake Regional Health Centre Heart Catheterization Lab is 52 minutes. Ninety-eight percent of the 118 patients receiving this specialized care received treatment in less than 90 minutes.

In addition to these specialized cardiac care programs, York Region EMS maintains specialized treatment programs for stroke patients and major trauma patients.

Outside of the clinical benefits realized by patients requiring this specialized care, an added operational benefit of this program results from the immediate off-loading of patients as Emergency Departments are bypassed. Paramedics are available to be redeployed after transferring care without delays commonly experienced in Emergency Departments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These two partnerships with Southlake Regional Health Centre (transporting patients directly to the Catheterization Lab, and delivering clot dissolving medications in the field) are at no net cost to the Region. Bypassing hospital emergency rooms has a positive impact on reducing offload delay and, as a consequence, on the cost of EMS service delivery.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

York Region residents continue to receive the benefits of the partnerships established with Southlake Regional Health Centre to provide specialized cardiac care programs.

7. CONCLUSION

York Region EMS has been successful in its delivery of specialized cardiac care. All patients that were treated through specialized protocols benefited from the care they received in the field. As a result of this success, Southlake Regional Health Centre supports York Region EMS's continued participation in these treatment protocols. Staff will continue to investigate partnership opportunities with the medical community where new treatment options may result in improved patient care.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, General Manager, Emergency Medical Services, at Ext. 4709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.