

BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS



2024

AFHTO BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS 2024

Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team

Award: Expanding access to team-based care

Achievement: HPAOHT Heart Failure Program: Revolutionizing Heart-Failure Care Through Innovative Team-Based Approach



Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team recognized the need to improve management of heart failure in Huron Perth. They set out to revolutionize heart failure care through an innovative team-based approach.

Their Huron Perth & Area OHT Heart Failure program exemplifies the value of improving access to team-based care. HPAOHT's pioneering Spoke-Hub-Node model seamlessly connects primary care with specialist services to dramatically improve accessibility of care and patient outcomes.

The first step in planning the program was surveying primary care providers regarding their knowledge of heart failure care. This led to providing heart failure education and online resources to primary care providers. Later in the program, heart failure education extended to a launch of patient education initiatives to improve self-management.

In the program's four years, it has significantly reduced heart failure admissions and emergency visits by bridging gaps between healthcare sectors. This program demonstrates how powerful team-based care can be in improving both community health and the efficiency of the healthcare system.

This innovative approach supported the development of team-based care that includes FHTs, internal medicine and community partners. It allowed development of evidence-based

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care protocols for providers and established a centralized referral system that ensures timely access to appropriate care.

The program offers resources to other teams including a blueprint for collaboration plus new approaches to patient education and self-management. The team is developing a mentorship program to onboard new providers and teams and is seeking additional funds to expand services and continue to reach underserved populations.

Patients in Huron Perth are enjoying the fruits of this improved heart failure care program. One commented: "The program inspires me to be better. It gives me hope. I couldn't get out of bed previously; this year I went cross-country skiing, and my treadmill is going."

Key Facts:

- Added FHT nurse practitioners to five heart failure clinics. Previously there were none;
- Heat maps of heart-failure hospital discharges were created to strategically locate clinics;
- Admissions were reduced by 1.8 per 100 patients; ER visits were reduced by 2.4 per 100 patients from 2019 to 2023;
- 30-day readmission rates were reduced to 13 per cent from 20 per cent over the program's four-year run;
- Personal support services were reduced to 2,800 hours in 2024 from 3,500 hours in 2019.