



“Our Distinction Program is a catalyst to mobilize the excellent work of the Canadian Stroke Strategy across the country.”

Wendy Nicklin, President and CEO, Accreditation Canada



Recognizing stroke services that are worthy of Distinction

There is often a gap between what is known about the best ways to manage stroke and how that knowledge is applied. Accreditation Canada and the Canadian Stroke Network have developed the Stroke Services Distinction program to help close that gap and reduce the impact of stroke on individuals and the health system.

Stroke Services Distinction recognizes organizations that demonstrate clinical excellence and an outstanding commitment to leadership in stroke care. It offers rigorous and highly specialized standards, based on the Canadian Stroke Strategy's *Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for Stroke Care* and developed in consultation with stakeholders from across the continuum. An on-site visit by expert evaluators is an important part of the assessment process.

This program consists of five key components: Standards, Performance Indicators, Protocols, Excellence and Innovation, and Client and Family Education.

Standards

Three sets of Stroke Services Distinction standards are available, covering the stroke care continuum: *Acute Stroke Services*, *Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation Services*, and *Comprehensive Services for People with Stroke* (for use in a regional setting).

Performance Indicators

Data must be submitted for core and optional performance indicators related to critical aspects of high-quality stroke care. Core indicator data must meet established thresholds; data for the optional indicators does not.

Protocols

Using protocols helps stroke services remain consistent, high quality, and evidence based, and is recognized as a key driver of excellence. Stroke Services Distinction protocols address critical areas such as tPA eligibility screening and swallowing ability assessment in patients.

Excellence and Innovation

Stroke Services Distinction organizations are required to demonstrate excellence and innovation by implementing projects or initiatives that follow stroke care best practice guidelines and that integrate the latest research and evidence.

Client and Family Education

Education about stroke is an ongoing and vital part of the recovery process for the client, family, and caregivers, facilitating understanding, coping, and self-management. Distinction organizations are expected to develop clear, dynamic, and integrated education materials to address the needs of stroke patients and their families.

For more information

Contact Jennifer Drouin, Client Services Specialist, at LearnMore@accreditation.ca.

Accreditation Canada is a not-for-profit independent organization that provides health services organizations with a rigorous and comprehensive accreditation process. We foster ongoing quality improvement based on evidence-based standards and external peer review. Accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care, Accreditation Canada has helped organizations strive for excellence for more than 50 years.



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