



Telestroke Update

Telestroke Update

December 2009 Vol 1, Issue 1

In This Issue

BC Telestroke Team

VIHA Telestroke Up and Running

Polycom Mobile Videoconferencing Units

Fraser Health / Vancouver Coastal Health Telestroke in Active Planning

Alternative Points of Care

BCSS TeleLearning Series

Tune into Alberta Stroke Rounds

Wrap Notes

BCTelestroke Team

Diane Layton
Project Manager

Allan Holmes
Physician Liaison

Helen Truran
Clinical Coordinator

Hans Krueger
Evaluations Lead

Barbara Carver
Communications

Mary Stambulic
Administrative
Co-ordinator

Greetings!

With one project up and running and another deep in the planning stages, Telestroke is moving from a vision into medical reality in British Columbia.

Over the past 15 months, under the guidance of the BC Stroke Strategy Steering Committee, the BCTelestroke Working Group has collaborated closely with partners in the [Vancouver Island](#), [Fraser](#) and [Vancouver Coastal](#) Health Authorities to implement the first-ever, on-demand emergency Telestroke service in BC.

Telestroke is one of the key elements of the [BC Stroke Strategy](#), a comprehensive and integrated plan to improve stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation across British Columbia. The strategy is funded by the [Ministry of Health Services](#) and lead by the [Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon](#).

One year ago, the Telestroke Working Group endorsed a provincial prototype model using a phased-in approach. Two compliments of neurological consultants would support two referring sites within their existing service areas. Lessons learned from these two prototypes would inform the best model and technology solutions for a Provincial Telestroke service. The [BCSS Measurement and Evaluation Committee](#) developed an evaluation framework to assess the results for future Telestroke service delivery (Summer 2010). Updates on the projects are included in this newsletter.

We have added you to our distribution list to receive updates about Telestroke in BC. If you would like to receive information about other BC Stroke Strategy initiatives, or to remove yourself from this list, [please click here](#). Feel free to [forward this email](#) to anyone you think might be interested in Telestroke.

For more information about the BC Telestroke projects, please visit the [BC Stroke Strategy website](#).

Thank you for your continuing interest.

Helen Truran, Clinical Coordinator

is Up and Running

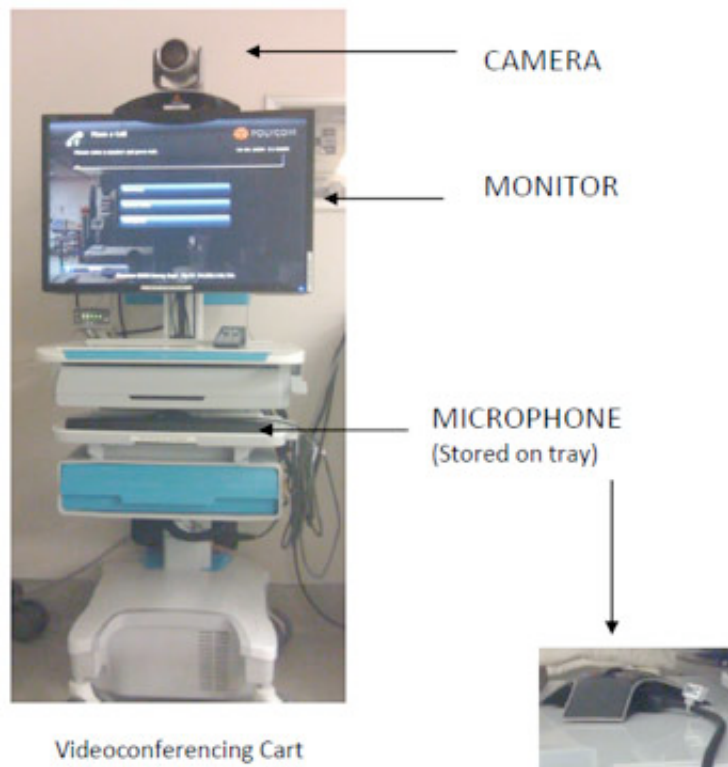
On July 7th 2009, Dr. Andrew Penn initiated the first videoconferenced Telestroke consultation in BC. Working from the [Victoria General Hospital](#), Dr. Penn diagnosed and prescribed treatment for a patient at [Nanaimo Regional General Hospital](#). Since then, 14 Telestroke calls have been directed through *bcbedline* from the two referring sites. Of these, 6 consults were conducted via videoconferencing, and tPA was administered to 3 patients.

bcbedline was introduced for the [VIHA](#) Prototype and incorporated into the service algorithm to manage and track Telestroke calls from referring sites. Each neurologist carries a pager which they turn on or off depending on their schedule. Historically, referral management for general neurology was achieved through contacting switchboard and on-call contact list and schedule posted on the [VIHA](#) intranet site. To date, the *bcbedline* referral management model has been useful in following up on all Telestroke calls.

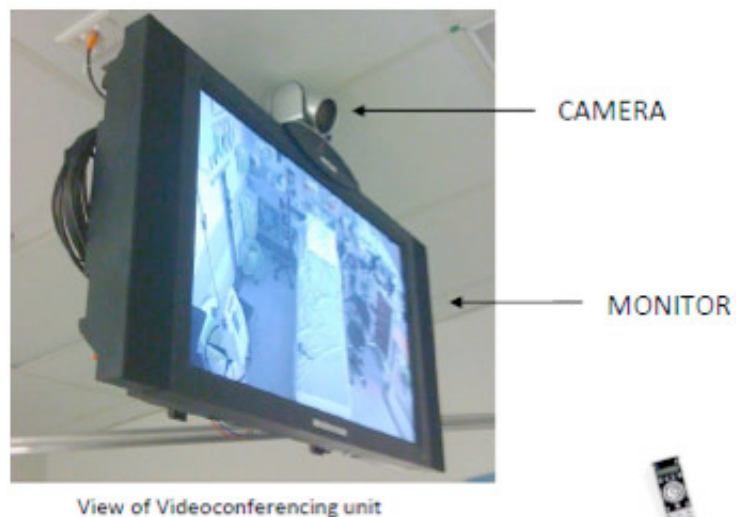
Two different kinds of videoconferencing equipment (portable and fixed) were selected based on service delivery requirements of each emergency department. This will give the Telestroke team a chance to compare the pros and cons of both service delivery models.

Polycom Mobile Videoconferencing Unit

Installed in Nanaimo



Installed in Cowichan



Fraser Health / Vancouver Coastal Health Telestroke Prototype In Active Planning

With the VIHA implementation under our belt and a more robust toolkit, the BCTelestroke Team initiated phase 1 Telestroke implementation with [Fraser Health \(FH\)](#) and [Vancouver Coastal Health \(VCH\)](#) Authorities in July 2009. Initial engagement included leadership and physician engagement resulting in the selection of two referring sites, Peace Arch Hospital and Chilliwack General Hospital. An implementation team composed of leads from each of the respective Health Authorities and BCTelestroke representatives will facilitate the development and implementation of BC's second Telestroke prototype.

After significant effort, FH and VCH found a solution for enabling videoconferencing connectivity between two Health Authority networks. While the e-Health Network Gateway is in place to support the bandwidth requirements for videoconferencing, it does not address access and policy challenges associated with crossing each Authority's firewalls. BCTelestroke has now added a technical advisor to the team to facilitate a provincially scalable and sustainable technology solution for the FH and VCH prototype. Lessons learned and tools developed during the [VIHA](#) implementation will be leveraged and refined to make the best use of resources. A first draft of the Privacy Impact Assessment was jointly developed, and is in the process of refinement.

bcbedline has been an active partner with the Hot Stroke Pager Program since its inception six years ago and provides a key referral management interface for Vancouver-based consultants and referring physicians. *bcbedline* will continue to play a role in referral management for Telestroke and may also support digital imaging transfer from FH to VCH in the event that the Diagnostic Imaging Viewer solution does not meet its projected implementation timelines.

Alternative Points of Care

An Alternative Points of Care Task Group has been charged by the [VIHA](#) Telestroke Steering Committee to investigate ways for neurologists to access videoconferencing technology for telestroke consultations from other points of care, such as their office or home. Their recommendations are expected in 2010. [Vancouver Coastal Health](#) has also been exploring the possibility of home connectivity.

BCSS TeleLearning Series

The BCSS has launched a series of educational videoconferences. The next session will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 26 2010, from 12 noon - 1 pm (PST). Drs. Phillip Teal and Ron Warneboldt will discuss the recently released [GPAC guidelines on Stroke and TIAs](#).

Six sessions have been scheduled. [PHSA](#) will use existing Telehealth contact lists to communicate to all videoconference-enabled sites across the province. All sessions, including Dr. Patty Lindsay's presentation on Best Practices 2009 - Canadian Stroke Strategy, will be archived on the [BC Stroke Strategy website](#).

To receive notification of TeleLearning sessions, [click here to access your profile and choose the TeleLearning box](#).

To see upcoming events and review presentations from past events, [click here](#).

Alberta Stroke Rounds via Telehealth

Through funding made available by the BC Stroke Strategy, services providers and interested stakeholders will have access to select educational rounds broadcast by the Alberta Stroke Strategy. The [Provincial Health Services Authority](#) will coordinate and air these sessions to videoconference-enabled sites across the province.

If you would like to receive notification of Alberta Stroke Round broadcasts, please [join our distribution list](#). When asked what notifications you would like to receive, click the *TeleLearning* option.

Wrap notes

The next BCSS Telestroke Working Group meeting will be held in February 2010.

We hope this update informs you of the early success and the work undertaken in BC Telestroke since we last met.

If you have any questions, would like more detailed information or have feedback on this update, please [send us an email](#).

In closing, we would like to acknowledge John Rowlandson's leadership in advancing the vision of Telestroke Service Delivery in BC. John has moved on to forge new Telehealth frontiers in Ontario.



HEART &
STROKE
FOUNDATION
OF BC & YUKON

Finding answers. For life.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Ministry
of Health



PROVINCIAL
Health Services
AUTHORITY



PARTNERS IN
RECOVERY



fraserhealth
Better health. Not a health care.



Interior Health



northern health



Vancouver
Coastal Health
Promoting evidence. Improving care.



VANCOUVER ISLAND
health
authority



Stroke Recovery
Association of
British Columbia

Email Marketing by

