

Toronto Western Hospital Stroke Prevention Services

Information for Referring Healthcare Providers

Who we are:

The University Health Network's (UHN) Toronto Western Hospital (TWH) is the Regional Stroke Centre in the Toronto West Stroke Network. Our Stroke Prevention Services include both our rapid-assessment Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) and Minor Stroke (TAMS) Unit and our secondary Stroke Prevention Clinic (SPC).

Our team of stroke experts provides timely access to care for patients with recent TIA, confirmed or suspected stroke, and those deemed to be at high risk for stroke. The interprofessional team will work to determine the etiological diagnosis and make recommendations for optimal care, recovery, and stroke prevention. We also offer education and support to patients, their caregivers and families.

We serve patients:

- With suspected stroke/TIA symptoms, including high-risk patients requiring same-day or next-day evaluation and treatment
- With confirmed stroke who require evaluation, treatment, and prevention services
- At high risk for stroke (e.g. asymptomatic atrial fibrillation, asymptomatic carotid stenosis, strong family history of stroke at a young age, etc.)
- With abnormal brain imaging showing evidence of occult strokes
- Who require a second opinion regarding cerebrovascular disease

Please note that not all patients with neurological symptoms require a referral to our services. As a referring healthcare provider, please consider a referral to: cardiology for isolated syncope, ENT for isolated vertigo, ophthalmology for vague visual symptoms, general neurology/headache specialist for migraine/headache, and neurology/memory clinics for cognitive impairment.

Services we provide:

- Evaluation by stroke experts including stroke neurologists, stroke nurse practitioners, and a stroke clinical nurse specialist
- Interprofessional assessment by healthcare professionals specializing in stroke recovery, including a physiotherapist, speech-language pathologist, dietitian, and occupational therapist, when required
- Diagnostic investigations including access to advanced brain and neurovascular imaging
- Recommendations for medical management for optimal stroke prevention
- Stroke education to help your patient better understand and manage their condition, recovery and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Ongoing follow-up as appropriate
- Referrals to other specialists, if indicated
- For non-English speaking patients an interpreter can be arranged if requested

How to refer your patient to our services:

Please refer your patients to the Emergency Department if the onset of their symptoms occurred within the last 48 hours. You can refer patients experiencing symptoms more than 48 hours prior directly to the SPC. Any physician or nurse practitioner can make a referral by completing a [referral form](#) and faxing it to 416-603-7733.

Patients will be screened and triaged based on their stroke risk. We use the guidelines suggested by the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations – Secondary Prevention of Stroke for the purpose of risk stratification. The wait-time to see a stroke specialist depends on the urgency of each referral and clinic appointment availability.

Once we have received the referral your patient will be contacted directly with an appointment date and time.

TAMS Unit	SPC
<p>A day-unit that serves high-risk patients with suspected TIA or minor (non-disabling) stroke who present to a local Emergency Department within the Toronto West Stroke Network. In most cases appointments are scheduled within 24 hours of referral.</p> <p>The patient will be assessed, have necessary investigations completed (e.g. brain MRI, CT angiography, Holter monitor), and treatment initiated during a 3-5 hour visit.</p>	<p>Patients that do not meet the criteria for the TAMS Unit are seen in SPC.</p> <p>Patients are assessed and provided with recommendations for further investigations and treatments, which are completed on an ambulatory basis. Visits are on average 1-3 hours.</p> <p>Where appropriate, patients may be followed for ongoing management.</p>
<p>Location: Toronto Western Hospital 399 Bathurst Street Toronto, ON, M5T 2S8 6B Fell Pavilion</p>	<p>Location: Toronto Western Hospital 399 Bathurst Street Toronto, ON, M5T 2S8 West Wing – 5th floor</p>
<p>Clinic Hours: 7-days/week: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm (excluding STAT holidays)</p>	<p>Clinic Hours: Monday – Friday: times vary</p>
<p>For administrative questions, call: TAMS Unit Patient Flow Coordinator: (416) 603-5800 x2144</p>	<p>For administrative questions, call: Stroke Clinic Coordinator: (416) 603-5413</p> <p>For questions about stroke, call: Clinical Nurse Specialist: (416) 603-5800 x2073</p>

What your patient needs to bring to their appointment:

- Ontario Health Card (OHIP)
- An updated list of medications
- Relevant past medical records, unless already forwarded to our team
- DVDs of any previous relevant brain CT and MRI and CT or MR angiography scans. DVDs are not required for imaging done at UHN, Mount Sinai Hospital or Women’s College hospital, or hospitals that are part of Connecting Ontario.