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Telestroke: Evolving and disrupting the boundaries of traditional healthcare delivery in New Brunswick

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Rationale for the project

- When: Provincial mandate to have this project initiated the Fall of 2014
- Who: Ambulance NB, Service NB, Vitalité and Horizon as principal working partners
- Why: Telestroke was determined to be the only way NB citizens would have access to TPA treatment



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The Goal of the Project or Strategy

- To implement a province-wide system for delivering evidence-based acute stroke care and thrombolytic therapy using state-of-the-art Telehealth technology and processes.
- To allow a stroke specialist to see a patient's CT scan and examine a stroke patient, with their family if present, regardless of when or where the patient or the specialist is in the province.



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Measures

- Telestroke calls for 2016 = 134; 2015 = 95
- Other measures to evaluate service include :
 - Tracking suspected strokes that call 911 and ANB diverting to appropriate facilities if less than 4 hours from onset of symptoms
 - Tracking the number of patients who arrive at a hospital within 4 hours and offered TPA
 - Measuring treatment provided
 - Reviewing the technology



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Tips & Tools for Others

- Involve diverse stakeholders early
- Develop standardized tools and approaches for consistency
- COMMUNICATION- arrange regular meetings even if they lasted 15 minutes
- Break down the tasks and assign to minimize increase work load for a few
- Inclusion of patients and families provides meaningful input to this initiative



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