STUDY OVERVIEW

The first phase of the study is a cross sectional retrospective chart review investigating acute stroke rehabilitation practices at the MUHC for the period October 2011 to March 2012. A structured data abstraction form (we have developed and validated most of the components of this form through REPAR/FRSQ funding) will be used to elicit information on OT, PT, SLP, nursing, neurology etc. practices) according to patient admission severity – as trichotomized into mild, moderate severe based on neurological exam and modified ranking scale. Once we have identified key areas of patient acute care management that require best practice attention – that is, where there are substantial modifiable gaps between actual practices and the Stroke Best Practice 2010 Guidelines, we will conduct a series of focus groups with various stakeholders (the health professionals, administrative personnel) that examine critical areas for change and facilitators that would permit change in patient management (Phase 2). Finally, in Phase 3 an interactive knowledge translation (KT) initiative will be introduced specific to the needs identified in Phase 2. The overall project will be submitted for ethics approval from the Research Ethics Institution Review Board - McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and when requested, individual sites within the MUHC.