

Ventricular Assist Devices – Preparing patients, families and communities

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The ventricular assist device (VAD) has been used in Canada for more than 10 years; however it is only recently that discharge of patients from acute care facilities has become an accepted practice in most programs. The introduction of the HeartMate® II device is allowing more patients than ever before to not only go home, but to resume work, school and leisure activities. This significant improvement in mobility demands new and innovative ways to prepare patients, their families and communities to enable VAD recipients to live safely out of the hospital.

This 3-hour session will cover:

- Discharge preparation, including determination of suitability for discharge, discharge planning and community supports
- Learning and achieving competence for patients and their caregivers
- Caregiver burden: review evidence around caregiver burden and explore implications for practice
- Living better in the community: discussing everyday activities such as resumption of sexual activities, driving, returning to work and taking vacation.

Those attending this workshop will leave with an improved understanding of VAD use in Canada and the implications for patients, families and their communities and be better prepared in developing a teaching and discharge plan.

Agenda

0900-0915	Canadian VAD experience Overview of VAD experience in Canada	Jane MacIver
0915-0940	Discharging patients Assessing suitability Patient and caregiver education/competency Preparing communities	Marnie Rodger
0940-1040	Case Presentations – The challenges of discharge Case 1 Annemarie Kaan Case 2 Jane MacIver/Marnie Rodger Case 3 Fiona MacDonald Case 4 Sonya Osmond	
1040-1100	Morning coffee	
1100-1115	Emotional Experiences of Caregivers of VAD patients discharged home on VAD support	Annemarie Kaan
1115-1130	Resumption of sexual activity	Jane MacIver
1130-1145	Behind the wheel: Driving with a VAD	Annemarie Kaan
1145-1155	Back to work and taking vacation	Sonya Osmond
1155-1200	Wrap up/Evaluation	