

# Burden of Vision Loss in Stroke

## Background and Rationale

- **Nearly half of stroke survivors experience vision loss**, which may be permanent.
- Even short-term **vision challenges can negatively affect** survivors' quality of life, their emotional health, how they socialize, their risk of injury, how they function and their potential to benefit from rehabilitation.
- In other provinces and countries, **barriers and inequalities** impede adequate **diagnosis** of vision loss post-stroke and **access** to visual rehabilitation.
- We **lack evidence** on how such **barriers impact patients and care providers** in Alberta.

## Study Aim

- We aim to **identify gaps in care experienced by stroke survivors, especially related to their vision, along the care continuum** (i.e. in-patient and out-patient settings).
- We will clarify stroke **survivors' experience** of the diagnosis and management of vision loss in acute, tertiary and community settings; and
- We will understand **provider perceptions** of health services delivery and inter-professional collaboration at these settings.

## Methodology

- In this 2-phase study, we will:
  - Use **qualitative** and then **cognitive interviews** to **develop and test** one **survey for stroke survivors** and a separate survey for **providers**; and
  - **Distribute these surveys** electronically to eligible participants across Alberta using either email or telephone interviews.



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## Results to Date

- In partnership with **12 sites across Alberta**, we have:
  - Completed **31 provider interviews & 19 survivor interviews**.
  - **Providers** from across the care continuum (acute, tertiary, & community care), including three key disciplines: **stroke** (neurology), **ophthalmology**, and **rehabilitation** (allied health).
  - Providers & survivors spoke to the **key themes** of: **early experience**, living in the **real-world**, **barriers & facilitators** to low vision, **access, providers, & resources**.
  - We have prepared one **survivor survey** and one **provider survey** and are preparing to do **cognitive testing**.

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