

AMPUTATION PREVENTION IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS: IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE PATHWAYS

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PROBLEM

Above average amputation rates in patients receiving hemodialysis in the Southern Alberta Renal Program

10% of patients in the last 5 years had a lower limb amputation



Increased hospital admissions



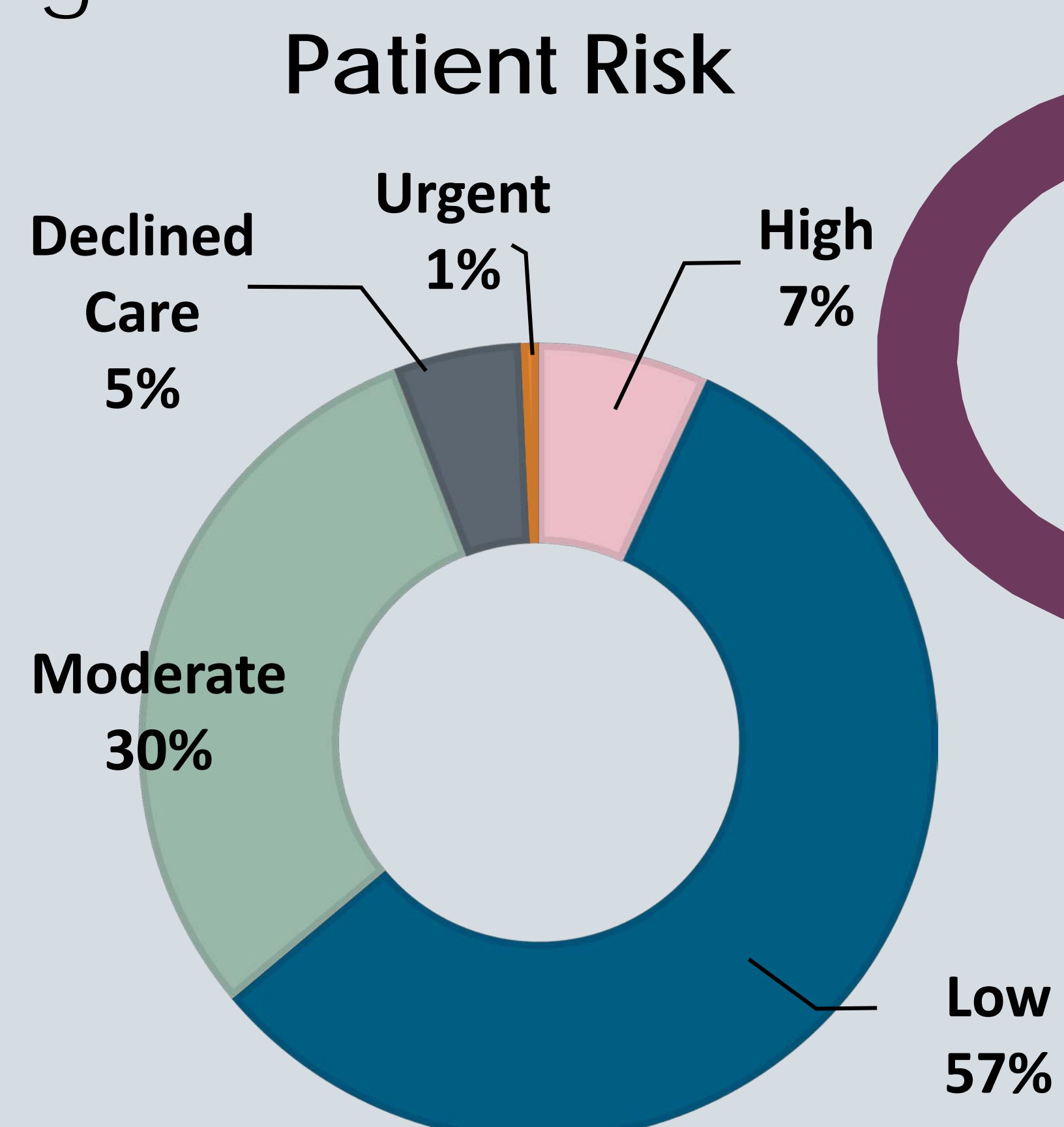
23% 5-year survival rate post amputation¹



Increased cost burden on patient and system

SOLUTION

- ✓ Partnered with Diabetes Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network
- ✓ Adopted new screening tool
- ✓ Identified patient needs
- ✓ Met with local foot care experts
- ✓ Aligned patient risk with required care



WHY

- 1 Unclear referral process to external foot care programs
- 2 Lack of communication between hemodialysis units and external programs
- 3 Cost of services for patients

Challenges

- Patients declined screening
- Communicating messages to involved stakeholders
- Coordinating communications with external programs

Lessons Learned

- Develop detailed communication plan
- Identify needs of patient population
- Build on existing services

Next Steps: pilot and scale to other sites

OUTCOMES



Reduced unnecessary screening by 75%



Improved patient access to foot care & continuity of care



Improved communications at transition

¹ Orimoto Y, Ohta T, Ishibashi H, Sugimoto I, Iwata H, Yamada T, et al. The prognosis of patients on hemodialysis with foot lesions. Journal of Vascular Surgery 2013;58(5):1291-1299