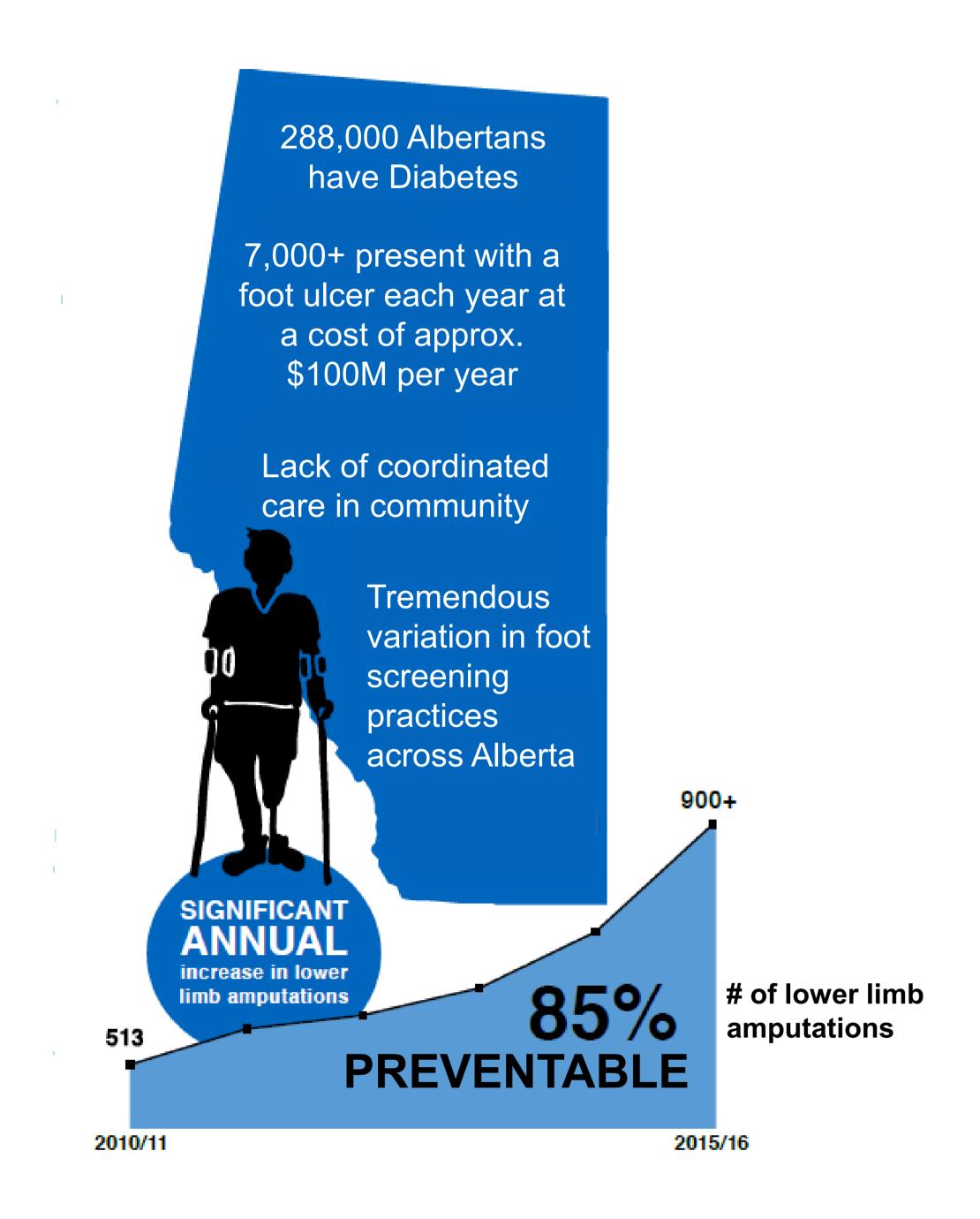
Development of a Clinical Care Pathway for High Risk Feet in Patients with Diabetes Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network Petra C. O'Connell, Kathy D. Dmytruk, and Naomi Popeski, PhD

# Diabetes Can Knock You Off Your Feet!



### What Are Providers and Patients Saying?

"We have no foot care services in our community."

North Zone Nurse Practitioner

"I don't feel I know how to do the sensation testing and I am not sure I can identify when a patient is at risk of an ulcer."

Central Zone Primary Care Nurse

"I have had diabetes for 20 years and no one has ever looked at my feet." - Patient

### Normal Blood Sugar ≠ Healthy Feet

In 2014/15, over 33% of people with diabetes who presented with foot ulcers or had a non-traumatic lower limb amputation had mean A1C values of ≤7.0.



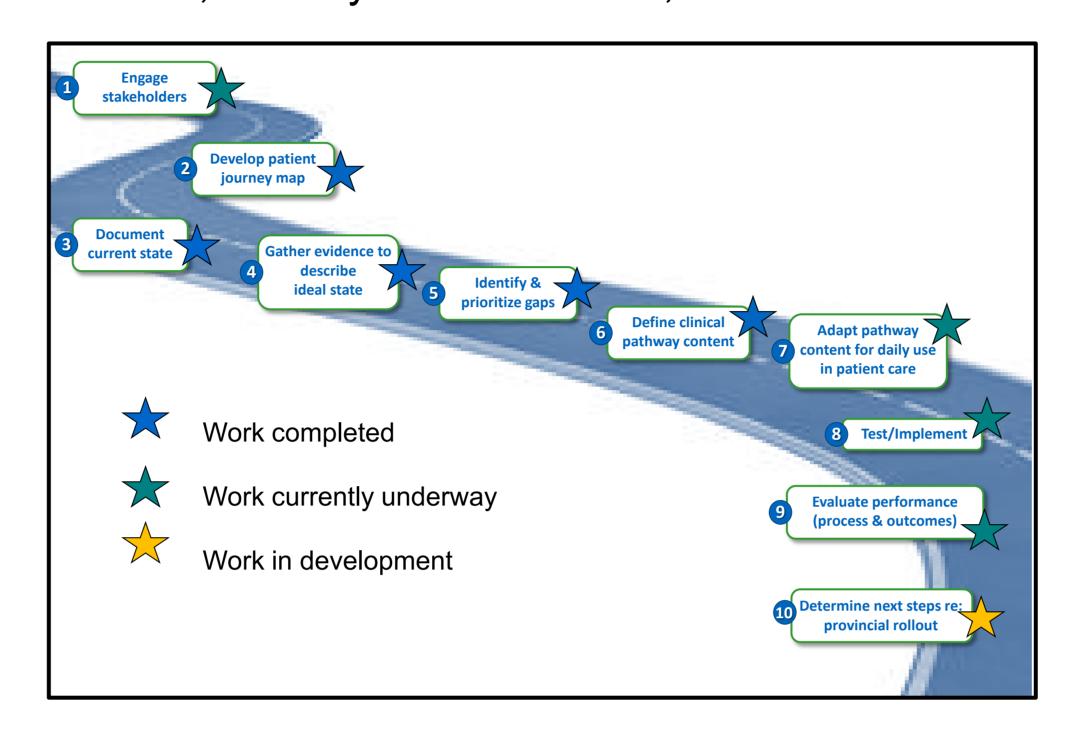
# Standardize Diabetic Foot Care Across Alberta

- Improve access to foot screening
- Support early detection and treatment of foot problems
- Promote and facilitate better self-care

# DON SCN Diabetic Foot Care Clinical Pathway Project

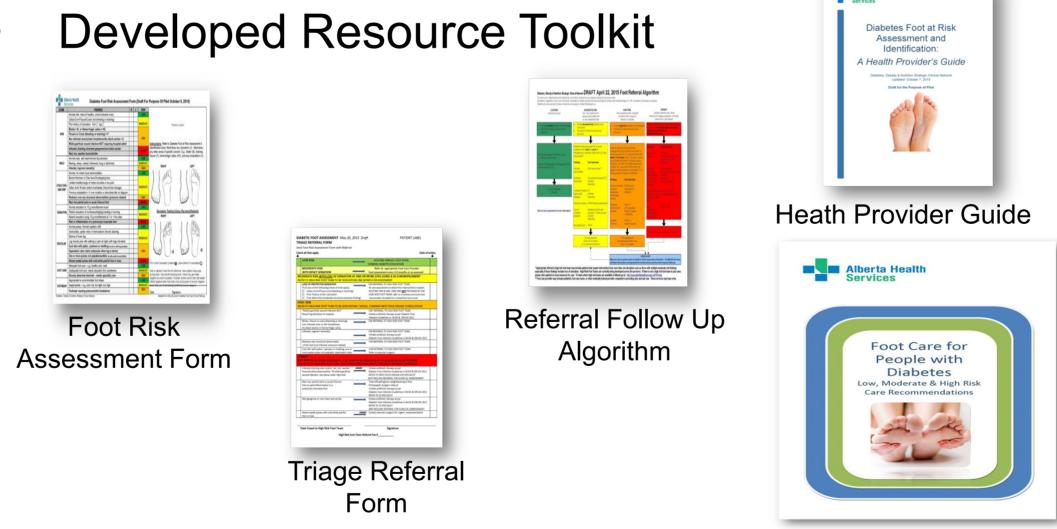
#### **Partners**

AHS, Primary Care Networks, Alberta Health



#### What We Have Achieved So Far

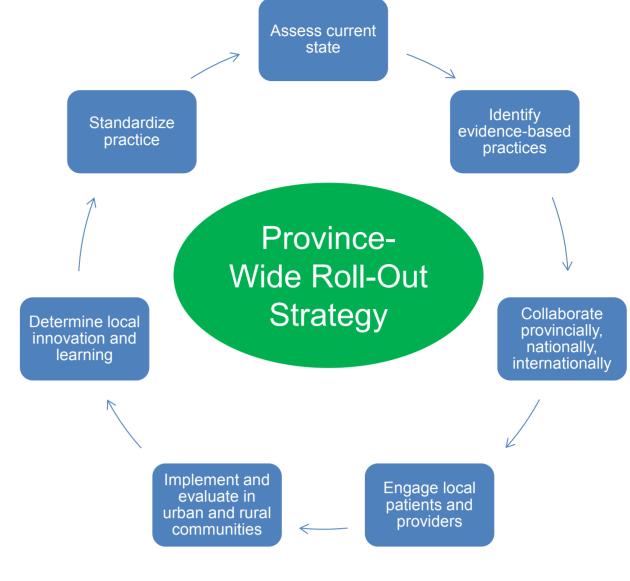
- Environmental Scan on foot care services across the province (2014)
- Broad Engagement of over 300 people
  - Patients
  - Primary Care Networks
  - Alberta Health Services
  - Alberta Health
  - Canadian Diabetes Association
  - Alberta Diabetes Foundation
  - Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan,
  - Researchers



Patient Self Management Guide

- Identified the need for Community Based-Multi-Disciplinary High Risk Foot Teams (HRFT)
- Evaluating the Pathway and HRFT in 3 sites:
  - Brooks Home Care (South Zone)
  - Slave Lake Family Care Centre (North Zone)
  - Westview Ambulatory Clinic (Edmonton Zone)

### How Are We Doing It?





"I was very relieved the high risk foot team found an ulcer forming under a callus on my foot and treated it so it did not progress to a more serious problem. I am thankful it was caught sooner than later." – Patient

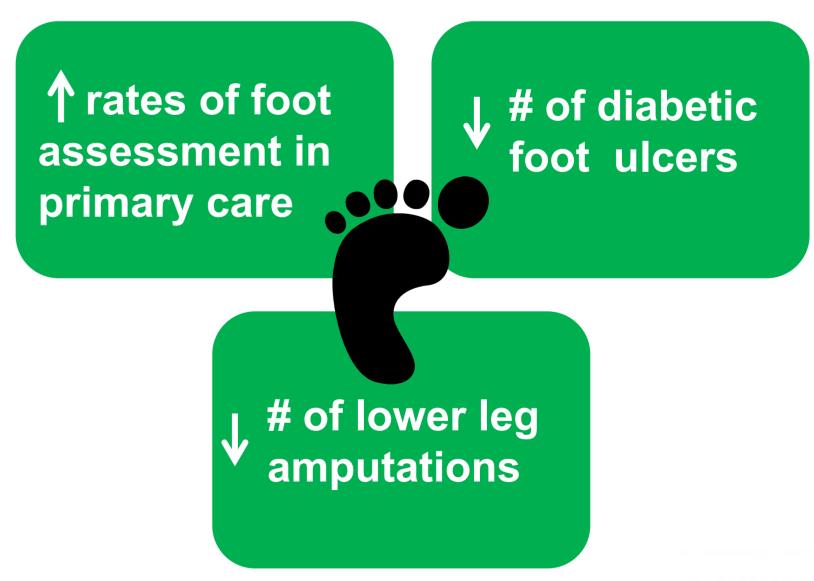
"I really like the patient handout that clearly helps the patient understand all the selfcare steps they can take to care for their feet. This resource is an excellent addition to the verbal education I provide and gives the patient something to refer to when they get home." – Pilot Site

"Embedding foot assessment in Primary Care electronic medical record." – Pilot PCN

#### **Baseline data indicates:**

- Patients reported very low foot screening rates by their primary care team.
- Primary care providers request more education on foot assessment.

### **Expected Outcomes**



## Next Steps



- Phase 2 roll-out
  - Mosaic PCN HRFT (Calgary Zone)
  - Chinook PCN (South Zone)
  - Kalyna County PCN (Central Zone)
  - Lakeland PCN (North Zone)
  - Working with Indigenous Communities
- Foot Care Symposiums in Edmonton & Calgary June 2017

#### References

Canadian Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Guidelines Expert Committee. Canadian Diabetes Association 2013 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada. Can J Diabetes. 2013;37(Suppl 1):S1-S212.
 Diabetes Obesity and Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network. Environmental scan of current diabetic foot care services in Alberta. Calgary, Alberta: 2014.

3. Rogers. E (2016). [Lower limb amputation rates and HbA1c Level among diabetic patients in Alberta]. Unpublished raw data.