Diabetes Can Knock You Off your Feet

Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) are creating improvements within focused areas of health care. To get the most out of our health care system, AHS has developed networks of people who are passionate and knowledgeable about specific areas of health, challenging them to find new and innovative ways of delivering care that will provide better quality, better outcomes and better value for every Albertan.

The Diabetic Foot Care Clinical Pathway is a key initiative of the Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition SCN in response to the rising number of preventable lower limb amputations among people with diabetes. The pathway promotes and supports earlier detection and treatment of diabetic foot problems in a variety of community settings.

WHY NOW?

- 337,000+ Albertans have DIABETES
- 5,250+ present with a FOOT ULCER EACH YEAR
- NO PROVINCIAL STANDARDS
- Lack of COORDINATED care
- PATIENTS MUST TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES for specialized care
- DIRECT HEALTHCARE COSTS for diabetic lower limb AMPUTATIONS
- $13 MILLION ANNUALLY

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- FOOT RISK assessment form
- TRIAGE referral form
- REFERRAL / FOLLOWUP algorithm
- PATIENT SELF MANAGEMENT guide
- HEALTH PROVIDER guide + video

HOW ARE WE DOING IT?

- PROVINCIAL GOAL: STANDARDIZED DIABETIC FOOT CARE
- PROVINCE-WIDE ROLLOUT STRATEGY
- STANDARDIZED DIABETIC FOOT CARE
- LOCAL INNOVATION and learning
- Test in urban & rural communities
- Patient and local clinician engagement

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- INCREASED patient safety
- More knowledgeable and better supported HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
- PATIENTS as proactive partners in the care of their feet
- QUALITY CARE in patient's community
- DECREASED WAIT TIMES
- INCREASED PATIENT quality of life
- DECREASED emergency visits and hospital admissions
- PREVENTION OF ULCERS faster, more effective healing of existing ulcers
- 50% reduction in amputations over time

WHY NOW?

- 513
- 2010/11
- 2015/16
- 85% PREVENTABLE
- PROVINCIAL GOAL: STANDARDIZED DIABETIC FOOT CARE

Partners: AHS, Primary Care Networks

Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network, December 2015, www.ahs.ca/scns/page7676.aspx, Email diabetesobesitynutrition.SCN@ahs.ca