

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

Diabetes Foot Care Clinical Pathway

The Goal

There is an increasing number of lower limb amputations being performed across Alberta. The majority of these amputations are a result of diabetic foot ulcers which are up to 85 per cent preventable. For this reason the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network (DON SCN) is developing a clinical pathway to help guide and standardize care for diabetic foot ulcers.

The goal of the pathway is to improve early detection and treatment of diabetic foot problems, thereby reducing the need for amputations.



The Process

The Diabetes Foot Care Clinical Pathway includes tools and resources to:

- increase the number of diabetic patients receiving foot assessments
- improve access to services for those who are at risk of or have developed an ulcer
- decrease rates of foot ulcer related lower limb amputations

The pathway will include the development of specialized teams to assess and treat patients who have, or are at risk for developing, diabetic foot ulcers.

The Outcome

Planning is underway to test the clinical pathway tools and resources in fall 2015 with three sites that will expand their current foot and wound care services to assess and treat patients. The sites are Slave Lake Family Care Clinic (North Zone), Brooks Home Care Wound Care Services (South Zone), and Westview Wound Clinic (Edmonton Zone).

The Team

This project is led by the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition Strategic Clinic Network (DON SCN) with the support of Zone operational teams and foot and wound care clinical experts.