

Optimal Approaches to Chronic Kidney Disease Case Finding in Indigenous Communities: The Kidney Check Program

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BACKGROUND

- Indigenous people have high rates of many chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, CKD and kidney failure
- Early lifestyle and pharmacologic interventions known to reduce progression of disease may keep kidneys healthy for a greater length of time
- Screening programs that can identify individual risk factors, estimate risk of kidney failure and deliver care interventions may reduce progression of disease and are likely cost effective

OBJECTIVES

- Form a collaborative team of patients, community leaders, elders, epidemiologists, clinician scientists and Indigenous Care providers in 5 provinces in Canada
- Screen and predict kidney failure risk of people in their community using mobile point-of-care equipment that provides instant feedback
- Capacity to refer people at highest risk to care and co-manage individuals with a lower risk of kidney failure closer to home
- Create linkages to local databases for follow-up, continued care and better overview of kidney disease in community
- Create a sustainable national screening model for CKD in Indigenous communities

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kidney Check Program Website www.cansolveckd.ca

TEAMS

Establishing a national network of partnerships to inform and implement local screening in each province



SCREEN PROCESS

- Individuals receive on the spot results
- A kidney health plan with follow-up care
- Tailored handouts & discussion corresponding to risk category



METHODS

- Kidney health checks in BC, AB, SK, MB and ON using an agreed process that respects OCAP principles
- Engage with communities using culturally safe practices
- Involve regional patient partners and community stakeholders to promote screening
- Trained specialists travel with equipment to rural and remote communities to offer on the spot kidney, diabetes and blood pressure checks to eligible individuals 10-85 years of age using validated predictors of CKD progression
- All point-of-care testing equipment is subjected to comprehensive internal quality assurance standards to ensure the results are precise and accurate with national guidelines
- Screened individuals are triaged and referred to a path of follow-up care according to specific needs
- Share the combined screening outcomes with community leaders and stakeholders

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Higher occurrence of chronic disease and CKD related risk factors will be found in comparison to the general Canadian population
- Long term outcomes will determine effectiveness of the mobile screening intervention method by linking administrative data with the individuals screened
- Creation of a National CKD screening platform



UPDATES

- 160 people from 11 BC communities were screened by Kidney Check and receiving preventive care
- Screening is temporarily paused in AB, SK, MB and ON related to the challenges of COVID-19
- BC resumed screening in May 2021 by sending equipment and virtually training local health staff. Two successful screening clinics were held with others planned for Fall 2021.
- MB is launching virtual screening using a provincial information platform, mail, local lab and healthcare resources and virtually connecting with people in their community
- The Kidney Check screening initiative is grateful to be recognized with 3 awards related to enhanced patient care
 - Toronto Dominion Ready Challenge
 - Abbott UNIVANTS Healthcare Excellence Award
 - The Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists' Award for Innovative Laboratory Medicine
- Four recent publications related to:
 - Establishing a nation-wide quality assurance program
 - Patient engagement and patient partners
 - The Kidney Check screening method
 - The impact of screening in communities