



Best foot forward: Reskilling human resources for high-risk foot care

Partners

University Health Network, The Michener Institute of Education at UHN

Sector Health care

Participants Health care providers who are in close constant contact with patients such as unregulated care workers, registered nurses, and community paramedics

Locations

[Ontario](#)

Additional Partners

Diabetes Action Canada
The Conference Board of Canada
CorHealth Ontario

Topics

[Pathways to Jobs](#)

Related Tags

Diabetic foot complications are a complex health issue that requires specialized health care skills. Patients with diabetic foot ulcers are at risk of amputation if treatment is not timely and appropriate. However, a shortage of chiropodists and podiatrists to treat

Sectors

career pathways,
healthcare,
labour market and skills
information,
sector specific,
skills assessment,
upskilling

these ailments necessitates the involvement of other health professionals.

Other foot care providers include doctors (i.e. surgeons, infectious disease specialists), nurses, wound specialists, personal support workers, physiotherapists and others. The delivery of relevant skills to the patient was weighed as more important than the health care provider's profession, according to the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF).

Retraining and upskilling these providers can help meet the growing demand for evidence-based diabetic foot care, reduce the number of lower limb amputations, and address a growing need in the workforce.

Due to varied training and licensing requirements among health care providers, standards of professional competence in diabetic foot care delivery must be developed so that providers attain the theoretical and clinical skills for the provision of safe and effective treatment. The displacement of health care providers during the pandemic, as well as the increased reliance on telemedicine, present a unique opportunity to dramatically improve health and labour

market
outcomes
in
diabetes
foot
care.



The Future Skills Centre is investing \$2.8 million in this four-year project proposed by UHN and the Michener Institute of Education at UHN. Organizers will examine the human resources and health care capacity needed to prevent or reduce lower limb amputation rates among people with diabetes. It is part of a broader collaborative effort to improve the management, treatment and outcomes of persons with diabetes as

well
as
to
enhance
the
efficiency
of
the
health
care
system.

The initiative includes the Conference Board of Canada's VBHC Canada, in partnership with Diabetes Action Canada and CorHealth. It strives to examine best practices and create standardized evidence around effective care pathways for the prevention and treatment of diabetic foot ulcers, as well as to link health care costs for this patient population to outcomes (clinical and patient-reported). The initiative is being linked to four existing

provincial
programs
focused
on
preventing
and
reducing
lower
limb
amputations
for
persons
with
disabilities.

Evaluation Strategy

This project will be evaluated using tools and approaches aligned with its goals, context, and stage of development. The evaluation will focus on generating the right evidence at the right moment to move the intervention forward. [Read more about our evaluation strategy.](#)



The Future Skills Centre acknowledges that the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee share a special relationship to the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory,' where our office is located, bound to share and protect the land. As a pan-Canadian initiative, FSC operates on the traditional territory of many Indigenous nations across Turtle Island, the name given to the North American continent by some Indigenous peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in this territory and commit ourselves to learning about our shared history and doing our part towards reconciliation.

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