



Manitoba Wait Times News

The Project

The Patient Wait Times Guarantee (PWTG) pilot project is an 18-month program to establish and implement a wait times guarantee for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetic foot ulcers in Manitoba First Nation communities. The partners working on this project are Saint Elizabeth Health Care (SEHC), a not-for-profit charitable health care organization, and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), the political body representing 64 Manitoba First Nations. Funded by Health Canada, the project was announced by the Minister of Health in January 2007, with the project commencing as of April 1, 2007. The goal of the project is to reduce the significant impacts of foot ulcers in individuals with diabetes.



Tracy Scott (SEHC) and
Mabel Horton (AMC)

Eight communities invited to take part in the pilot

The selection of the First Nations communities to participate in the pilot project was based on several guidelines as well as in consultation with the Manitoba First Nations Diabetes Committee, the Health Technicians, the Patient Wait Times Guarantee (PWTG) Advisory committee and the Steering Committee. All of

the Manitoba First Nations communities were considered for inclusion based on significant health needs and access to services. Consideration was impacted by the limited time frame for the project and the number of First Nations that could be involved based on resources.

The following eight communities have been invited to participate:

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Canupawakpa Dakota Nation
Ebb & Flow First Nation
Manto Sipi Cree Nation
Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Peguis First Nation
Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
Wasagamack First Nation

The Partnership

SEHC and AMC are committed to working together to establish and implement an effective health care approach for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetic foot ulcers in Manitoba First Nation (MFN) communities.

SEHC and the AMC have signed a collaboration agreement, based on the First Nations (FNs) principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession of FNs data. This agreement also recognizes and emphasizes MFN cultural values and perspectives and endeavors to consider all effective options, including traditional healing. The partners are working closely with MFN communities, committees, and advisory bodies (including the Manitoba First Nations Diabetes Committee and the Health Information and Research Governance Committee (HIRGC) to ensure FNs' participation in the project and solutions that work for communities.

Current Progress

Site visits have been made to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and Peguis First Nation to share information on the project. We are pleased that the response from the leadership and health staff in both communities has been one of complete support and excitement for the project. Site visits will be conducted in all participating communities over the next few months.

We look forward to working with you!

First Nations Wait Times Guarantee Pilot

Process Mapping Completed in April

The pilot partners held three working group meetings of the Manitoba First Nations Diabetes Committee on April 3 - 4, April 26 - 27, and June 11 - 12 2007. These sessions were facilitated by Anokiiwin Management Consulting.

The purpose of the workshops was to:

- identify the current processes used in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes in First Nation communities throughout Manitoba;
- identify “gaps” in health care access that could have an impact on the “wait times” that patients experience when under going treatment for diabetic foot ulcers.
- analyze the possible causes of gaps in the health care access; and
- begin the process of considering realistic and workable solutions.

Next Steps

During the next quarter we will be continuing to document the current situation and collecting data on care and referral patterns. As well, interviews will continue with key informants regarding the current



MFNDC Process Mapping Session 3
Facilitator Nedra Anderson (far right)

process of care. In addition, task forces or working groups will be developed for several areas including community assessment, IT tracking and reminder systems, working with nurses and physicians, and data collection. During this period we will be developing a new model of care which will be piloted in the selected communities.

What is the solution?

This project is about working in partnership with First Nations communities and partners to find the best solutions to ensure timely access to care. The solution will be created by the community so that after the project ends, the knowledge, referral processes and infrastructures will exist to sustain the initiative. Our hope is that community members will play an active role in their care and the care of others, assisted by professionals as required, to meet complex needs such as wound care. In addition, the solution will dovetail with other diabetes related initiatives happening throughout the province. We are all working together to find a common solution that makes the best use of the available expertise, human resources and funding.



MFNDC Process Mapping Session 2
Top Left to right: Anita Crate, Jocelyn Bruyere, Evelyn Weenusk, Lyna Hart, Caroline Chartrand, Karen Ray, Connie Kuzdak, Alison Saunders
Bottom row: Lisa Osborne, Lauren Ducharme, Tracy Scott, Mabel Horton, Elva McCorrister
Not in picture: Melody Genaille

What will the project mean to me and my community?

It is anticipated that this project will identify gaps and streamline processes, to develop a new model of service to improve timely access to care and services for people with diabetic foot ulcers. The PWTG pilot project will benefit all communities by providing vital information to shape the changes that will be taking place to reduce wait times.

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MFNs PWTG Advisory Committee Formed

The Manitoba First Nation Patient Wait Time Guarantee (MFN PWTG) Advisory Committee has the responsibility of advising on the strategic direction and priorities of the project and monitoring the progress of the pilot project. On the advisory committee are representatives from MFNs Diabetes Committee, HIRGC, MFNs Diabetes Integration Project, MFNs elders and a Youth representative. The first Advisory Committee meeting took place on July 18th in Peguis First Nation.