

# Promising Practices for Strengthening Primary Care

## Point-of-Care Renal Screening



### The challenge

Access to primary healthcare services for early diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease is a challenge for many Indigenous people living in Northern Manitoba. Lack of primary care results in under-diagnosis and higher rates of chronic conditions.

### The promising practice

Enhance early diagnosis and treatment through comprehensive, team-based primary preventative care and treatment in four First Nations and one Métis community, including:

- Point-of-care (POC) screening for chronic conditions (e.g., renal health/kidney disease).
- Treatment plans and provision of care that is effective, culturally safe, and timely.
- The services are delivered through partnerships with community health centres, so that people get care in or closer to their community. The services are available to anyone in the community by walk-in or appointment. The team includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, dietitians, health promotion, and administrative staff.

### Example impacts

Between June - September 2024:

- 142 people have been screened for kidney disease. People who screened positive have been referred to a nephrologist for early intervention. Pediatric patients have been referred to the Diabetes Education Resource for Children and Adolescents in Winnipeg, where appropriate.
- Some patients shared that they would not have sought care if it had not been offered by the community health centre team.
- New or strengthened relationships with Indigenous community leaders, who helped develop and inform ongoing improvements to ensure the services continue to be delivered in a way that best meets the needs of the communities.

### Potential future impacts

- Continued improved patient experiences.
- Reductions in missed lab work and reduced use of emergency rooms as the first access point-of-care.
- Change in beliefs about the trajectory of kidney disease among community members.

**“This is a great clinic for the community. Very thankful it is available.”**

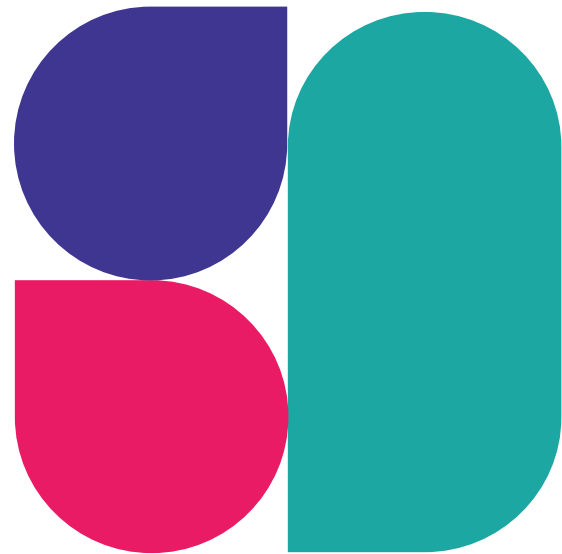
- Prairie Mountain Health patient



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## Keys to success

- **Reallocation** of existing health resources within Prairie Mountain Health region to enable delivery of the services.
- **Funding** for necessary POC testing equipment.
- **Champions** to set up, maintain, and provide basic technical support, and to troubleshoot equipment failures as required.
- **Flexibility** to adjust how screening is integrated into community services to meet needs for care closer to home.
- **Collaboration with communities** to:
  - Ensure the practice is culturally safe and sensitive to the unique needs of the community.
  - Raise awareness of the practice and encourage people to make appointments (e.g., community leaders co-developed and circulated an informational poster).



## Lessons learned

- Gather stories from community members and service providers to promote awareness and value of the program.
- Explore reallocation of existing human resources and delegate specific tasks appropriately.
- Seek guidance early to understand the screening process and equipment function.

## How can I learn more?

Contact the organization.

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## Why was this summary created?

Prairie Mountain Health participated in **Healthcare Excellence Canada's (HEC) Strengthening Primary Care (SPC) program**. SPC brought together 20 primary care organizations from across Canada to advance practices to improve access to safe, including culturally safe, team-based primary care.

This promising practice summary was co-produced with Prairie Mountain Health to help others learn about their work and generate discussion about how similar approaches could be adapted and applied elsewhere.



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