

Participants Interview Guide for Community Healthcare Worker

Welcome and thank you for participating in the interview. We want to know about some of the healthcare services available to patients who have foot issues or have undergone amputation and those who are living in the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council area in Saskatchewan. We will ask you some questions about your role in delivering care, the healthcare services that are present, and barriers to connecting patients to appropriate services for foot issues, and aftercare following amputation. There is no right or wrong answer. We will pull all the answers together to develop better services and support individuals with foot issues such that we can prevent amputations. Please note your participation is voluntary and you may only answer the questions you are comfortable with.

Role: In this section we will explore your role as a healthcare provider or community member and how you are involved in providing care or support to clients/ patients who are dealing with foot issues.

1. Please describe your role?
2. How long have you been in this role?
3. How many clients or patients you work with have foot issues?
4. How many clients/ patients you support have had amputation?

In this section we will ask you about the services available in the community

1. What healthcare services are available in the community to support clients/ patients who have foot issues?
2. What happens when a client/ patient needs to see a doctor or other healthcare providers for their foot issue? Please explain the process.
3. Is a support person available who can help clients/ patients coordinate care in the city?
4. Do you think clients/ patients have adequate information about healthcare providers, costs involved and what needs to be done if a person has foot issues and to prevent amputations?

In this section we will talk about coordinating care with healthcare providers outside community:

1. Do you work closely with a group of healthcare providers outside the community to manage foot issues for clients/ patient? Please describe your experience.
2. What services are available to support people after they have received amputation?
3. How was the communication with the healthcare providers who were caring for the clients/ patients during amputation? Did you receive adequate information from healthcare providers after amputation, to follow –up care in the community?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which the cost of receiving care drive non-compliance with amputation prevention. For example, neuropathic foot ulcers lead to many amputations. The preventative measure is offloading footwear that can be extremely costly (over \$300 per pair of shoes).

1. In what way do you think cost of transportation, cost of supportive shoes, medical costs etc., impact whether or not clients/ patients will access care for foot issues?
2. Please explain if and how other economic factors such as lost time from work, lost productivity, cost of care for dependent family members and cost of other personal expenses such as food when in the city can impact whether or not clients/ patients are able to access services for foot issues?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which travel is a barrier

1. Please explain the way in which the following factors act as barriers and can impact whether clients/ patients will access care needed to prevent amputation:
 - a. Clients/ patients have to travel to the city for care

Appendix 1, as supplied by the authors. Appendix to: Wees T, Pandey M, Nicolay S, et al. Identifying barriers to preventive care among First Nations people at risk of lower extremity amputation: a qualitative study. *CMAJ Open* 2023.

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- b. Cost of travel is not covered
- c. Medical taxi might not be available for appointments,
- d. Medical taxi is only available for surgical procedure and hospital stay and only for the patient not for supportive family members.

In this section we will ask about the extent to which local political situation of band governance and federal funding support or fail to support the economic and travel needs.

1. Do you think funding is available either through the band or federal sources to cover medical cost for foot issues for clients/patients.
2. Do you think the band office supports individuals who have foot issues and are willing to look at alternate strategies to make services more accessible for clients with foot issues?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which social network drive compliance or non-compliance

1. Do you think that clients/ patients are not comfortable accessing care from family members who are also part of the healthcare team in the community?
2. For the clients/ patients you provide care for how many of them depend on their family members for healthcare services and what kind of supports do they receive.
3. Do you think that clients/ patients are unable to coordinate care by in the city without these supports and therefore might avoid accessing care in the city?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which the social network establish cultural norms, drive compliance or non-compliance with amputation prevention.

1. Do you think when clients/ patients have bad experiences with healthcare services in the city or nearby town it discourages them and others in the community from seeking care? Can you give us example
2. Do you know anyone who went to the city or nearby town and the next thing you know they got an amputation? Can you please tell us what happened and what you know?
3. Do you feel clients/ patients are concerned that if they go to the doctor in the city that they will end up the same way?
4. Do you think clients/ patients believe that the only option to deal with foot issues is amputation?
5. Do you feel historic negative events such as the 60's scoop, residential schools and colonialism has created deep mistrust about the western healthcare system and that has a significant impact on whether or not people access care?
6. Do you think systemic racism continue to exist and that even when people access healthcare services in the urban care center it is suboptimal their needs are not met? Please explain.

In this section we will ask about the extent to which there is conflict between traditional medicines and the healthcare provided in publicly funded institutions

1. Are there medicine man and or women who can or are currently providing traditional medicines to clients/ patients with foot issues?
2. According to you can traditional medicine and the western medicines be taken at the same time?
3. If you know about a client/ patient who is using traditional medicine would you mention it to the doctors when you are referring the client/ patient?
4. Do you think doctors in the city will not be alright with clients/ patients using traditional medicine?

5. Do you think client/ patients prefer to use traditional medicines and or are you alright with when clients/ patients prefer to use traditional medicine first and access western medicine when it does not work?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which personal body image, spiritual and cultural factors drive amputation prevention behavior.

1. Do you think it is a better idea to amputate a toe to stop the issues from becoming big or else a person might end up with leg amputation or lose his life?
2. Do you feel that losing any part of the body small or big greatly impacts a person's body image and is equally unacceptable to the clients/ patients that you work with?
3. Do you think for some people it might not be acceptable to amputate any part of the body due to cultural and spiritual reason? Please explain
4. Do you think that some people believe that physical body is a gift from the creator and disease and pain is part of it? That we need to have patience to deal with the disease and pain physically and spiritually?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which emotional and mental health factors play into amputation prevention.

1. Do you think that due to underlying mental health issues individuals are not in a position to address their foot issues? Please explain
2. Do you think that due to unmanaged addiction issues individuals are not in a position to manage their foot issues? Please explain
3. Do you think that the foot issue is not a priority for some clients/ patients given their current life situation? Please explain

Thank you for participating