

Participants interview guide Clients/patients

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 health, treatment you are receiving and the problems that you face when trying to get healthcare services. 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 want to.

Questions for clients who have not had amputation yet

In this section we will ask about clients' knowledge about the services needed and where to look for services in and outside community.

1. Do you know what you can do to better manage foot ulcers, neuropathic foot ulcers, diabetic foot issues?
 - a. Probe with: Who can you contact in community for services/ doctors and others healthcare providers in the city who can help?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which travel impacts compliance with amputation preventing measures

How easy or difficult is it for you to go to the city for medical services

If needed probe with:

2. Is it difficult to arrange travel, cost for travel, manage time that will be lost to go to the city for healthcare services, no one to help with food or place to stay if you need to wait for the appointment?
3. Do you/ family/friends have a car that can be used for medical transportation whenever you need?
1. Are you able to book the medical taxi to go to an appointment to the foot doctors or others who can help you get the supportive shoes, or for follow-up?
2. Are you able to book medical taxi to get to surgery and hospital stay?
3. Are there any rules around who can book medical taxi, or what healthcare issues will get priority?

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

1. Is there funding available from the band to cover transportation cost, cost for supportive shoes etc.?

In this section we will ask to what extent does the social network drive compliance or non-compliance?

1. Do you have family members who are part of the healthcare team and it is awkward to receive care from them for your condition. Please explain
2. Do you depend on your family for healthcare if yes who are those family members spouse, children others please describe the type of support and care you receive.
3. Are you comfortable asking for help from your friends and family for healthcare and
 - a. If yes how have they helped so far
 - b. If not what are some of the reasons.

4. Are you concern about leaving your family behind, like you might have young children and grandchildren you care for and it might be difficult to leave them alone to go for your appointment in the city.
 - a. Probe with how does that affect you
5. Do you have any support person who can help you manage your appointment in the city? Can you tell us about your experience you had in the city trying to manage healthcare services?

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

1. Did you or anyone else you know had a bad experience when they tried to get healthcare services in the city or nearby town? Please tell us what happened
2. Did this experience stop you or others from getting healthcare services later?
3. Do you think that given the past negative historic events like residential school, 60's scoop, colonization there is lack of trust in western institutions and people tend to avoid healthcare services due to these experiences
4. Do you think the only option in the western medical system is amputation and you want to delay it as long as possible? Please explain
5. Do you think 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?
6. Do you think for some people amputation of any part of the body will not be acceptable due to cultural or spiritual reasons.

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. Do you use traditional medicine?
2. Are there traditional medicine man and or women who are able to help with foot issues in your community?
3. Can traditional medicine and the western medicines be taken at the same time?
4. Do you let your doctors know about the traditional medicines that you might be taking?
5. Do you think doctors in the city will not be alright with you using traditional medicine?
6. Would you prefer to use traditional medicine first or with western medicine?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which body image drive amputation prevention behavior.

1. Do you think it is a better idea to amputate a toe to stop the issues from becoming big and end up with leg amputation or prevent a person from losing their life?

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 if a person is dealing with mental health issues then they might not be in a position to manager their foot issues? Please explain
2. Do you think if a person is dealing with addiction issues that they might not be in a position to manage their foot issues? Please explain.
3. In your experience are people scared of getting amputation and therefore they will delay receiving healthcare?

In this section we will ask about the extent to which personal past experience play into amputation prevention (including observations of care received by family and friends) For clients who have not had amputation yet.

1. Has anyone in your family or friends you know received amputation can you tell us what happened and what you know?
2. Are you concerned that if you go to the doctor in the city that you will end up the same way?
3. How do you think you should handle your foot issues?
4. What services/ information/ supports do you need to better manage your foot issues and to prevent amputation?

Thank you for participating

Question for clients who had an amputation

Welcome and thank you for participating in the interview. We want to know about some of the healthcare services available to patients who 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 health, treatment you are receiving and the problems that you face when trying to get healthcare services. 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 want to.

1. Can you tell us about when it all started and about your journey as to how you arrived where you are now

If necessary probe with

- a. How did things progress to where they are now?
- b. Did you receive any support from family/ community healthcare provider/ healthcare providers in the city/ band office?
- c. What steps did you take to deal with your health conditions?
- d. Looking back what do you think could have been done differently?
- e. Did you have enough information of what the different healthcare services were available to you to prevent amputation?
- f. Are there any healthcare needs that are still not being met?
- g. Do you have any suggestions on how this can be prevented for others who have foot issues?
- h. Would you like to add anything else we have not asked already?

Thank you for participating