



Pathways to Preservation: Advancing Indigenous-Led Lower Limb Health

May 30, 2025

Housekeeping

- **Recording:** This session is being recorded and will be shared with participants afterward.
- **Mute on Entry:** Please keep your microphone muted unless you're speaking to minimize background noise.
- **Q&A:** We'll have time for questions at the end of each speaker's presentation, but you're welcome to drop them in the chat as we go.
- **Tech Support:** If you have any technical issues, please let us know directly in the chat.
- **Respectful Space:** Let's keep this a respectful and inclusive space for learning and sharing.

Agenda

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Land Acknowledgement

Context for Today's Session

BANAC-Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin - Showcase

Maamwesying Ontario Health Team- Showcase

Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle - Showcase

Summary of Mutual Highlights

Ontario Health: FNIMUI-led LLP Funding Opportunity

Reflections & Open Dialogue

Closing Remarks & Next Steps



Ontario Health Land Acknowledgment



Showcasing

the work of three Indigenous Health Service Provider organizations and their achievements in the demonstration phase of the **Lower Limb Preservation Strategy**.

- ✪ Share stories about their Lower Limb Preservation Strategy
- ✪ Showcase work completed through an Indigenous-led and delivered approach
- ✪ Explore how to continue and improve in a good way

IPHCC's member sites:

Maamwesying North Shore Health Services
Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Primary Care Team

Health system partner:

The Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle



Context for Today's Session



Why We're Here

Today's webinar highlights Indigenous-Led approaches to integrated clinical pathways, focusing on the Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle's (IDHC) Lower Limb Preservation Initiative



Collaborative Effort

This webinar will showcase Maamweysing OHT, Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin OHT, Ontario Health, and IDHC – all working together to improve lower limb preservation and diabetes care for all Indigenous communities.



Knowledge Sharing and Impact

Our goal is to showcase lessons learned, experiences, barriers, and successes, providing Ontario Health Teams with valuable insights to adapt and implement similar strategies within their own regions.



Commitment to Indigenous-Led Initiatives

By centering Indigenous-led and informed approaches, we aim to promote wholistic, culturally relevant healthcare solutions that support meaningful, community-driven change.



BANAC - Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin



BANAC - Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin

Our commitment to the community....

Indigenous Healthcare

Providing culturally safe comprehensive primary health care, grounded in an Indigenous framework. Our services are reflective of individual health needs and identified community

Wholistic Health

Reflecting the importance of disease prevention, health promotion and the social determinants of health in the collective planning and partnership delivery of primary health care.

Participation

Increasing client participation, responsibility and control in their health care.

Traditional Healing

Ensuring client access to Traditional Healers and Traditional healing services for their health care needs.

Accessibility & Coordination

Improving accessibility, comprehensiveness, coordination, continuity and accountability of primary health care service.

Community Connections

Establishing and maintaining a strong connection with in-home and community support services to promote continuity of care.



Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Teams

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle (BANAC)

Led by the BANAC Board of Directors: A representative board appointment from the community

Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Team

Operations Team

Provides administrative, logistical, and infrastructure support to help teams with health care service delivery.

Community Health Team

Delivers Traditional Healing, land-based programming, cultural health promotion, and life promotion to support individuals and families.

Primary Care Clinics Team

Offering comprehensive, interprofessional and trauma-informed primary care services in clinics and in community.

Counselling & Wellness Services Team

Provides trauma-informed mental health and wellness services including therapy and connections with mental health specialists.

Community Addictions Supports & Treatment Team

Delivers compassionate, community-based addictions support and treatment that integrate cultural approaches.

Regional Systems-Level Initiatives Team

Strengthens partnerships, advocates for systemic change and builds capacity to improve Indigenous health outcomes.

INTEGRATED AND WHOLISTIC CARE SUPPORTING SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH NEEDS



Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Lower Limb Preservation Journey

November 2022



Connection from OH to
BAOHT

Developed Service
Mapping

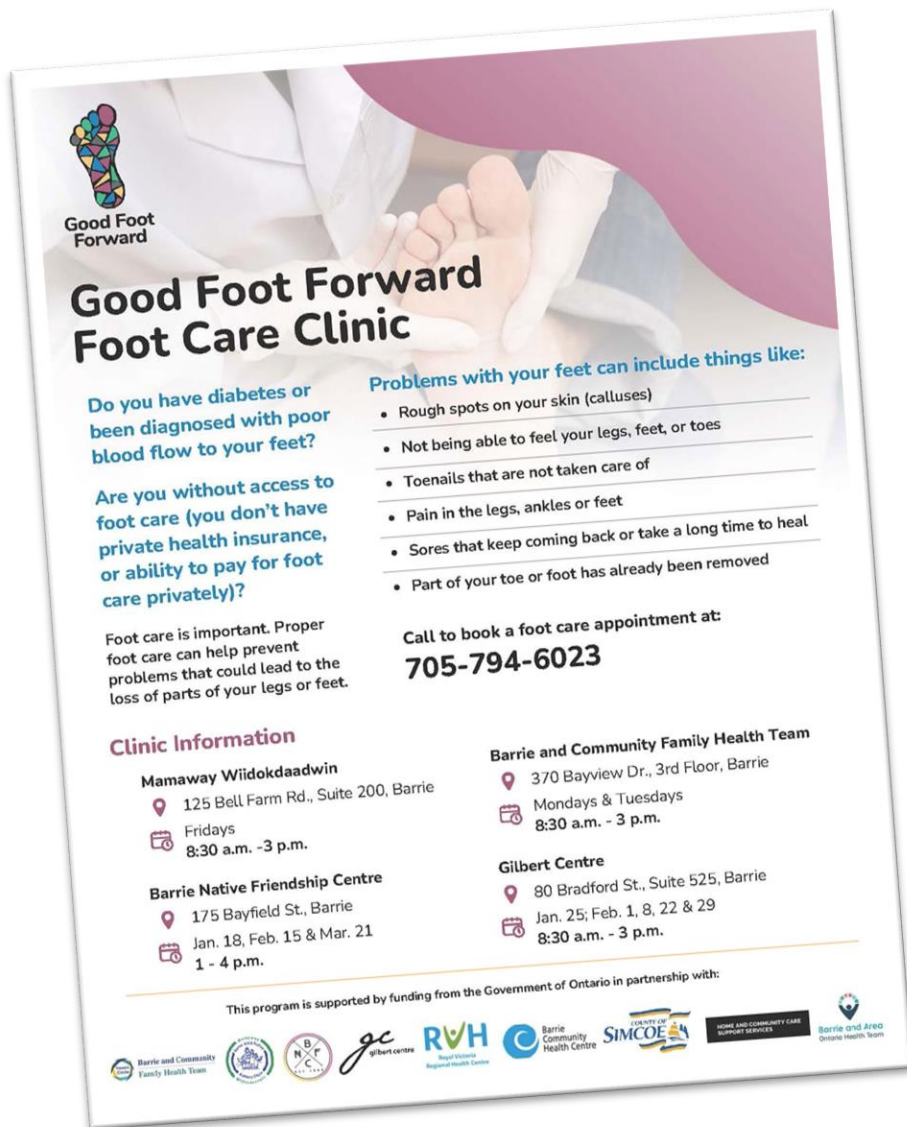
Knowledge to Action

Relationship
Development



Indigenous
Cultural Safety





Partnerships & ICP Development

Change Initiative aligned with the Framework for LLP

1. Prioritize Lower-Limb Preservation

- Co-created program with Indigenous organizations and people with lived experience

2. Improving Care Coordination

- Central access and referral and self-referral
- Inclusion of Self-Id process and pathway to Indigenous Culturally Safe Care

3. Equipping Patients and Families

- Co-created program goals with Indigenous organizations, PFAC members with lived experience

4. Equipping Care Teams

- Collaborative recruitment
- Standardized screening, practices and tools
- Development of CoP for footcare providers

<https://youtu.be/YNA7fEom-FI>



Milestones & Highlights of the LLP Project

Removal of historic barriers

Moved care to community

Became leaders in the LLP Demonstration

Honoured time and wisdom for ICS/Self-ID

Collaborative Care and Respectful Relationships

Areas for Improvement:

1. Relationships take time
2. Aligning priority from the community perspective
3. Maintain Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands
4. Resources match uptake of applying the Framework

Speed Bumps:

- Unaligned priorities
- Lack of collaborative trust in the beginning
- Unsustainable program investment
- OHT boundaries are an added barrier for Indigenous communities



Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin's next steps

1

Indigenous
Led LLP

2

Community
Driven and
Collaborative

3

Community
Led Pathway
s

4

Community
Collaboration
in Education
and Care

5

Ongoing
Relationship
with the OHT



Maamaweysing Ontario Health Team



Maamwesying Ontario Health Team



Vision: Maamwesying means “the act of working as one” in Ojibway. The vision of our agency is Maamwesying kina gweyahn N’minobimaadizing which means “Working as One for the Wellbeing of All”.

Mission: Working with our community partners to provide accessible, quality, culturally safe, and holistic health care that support and enhance the wellness of individuals, families and communities.

Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's Levels of Partnerships



Core Partners

- Partnerships Agreements established "Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands"
- Representation on the MOHT Leadership Council
- Direct involvement in decision making/design of the Ontario Health Team

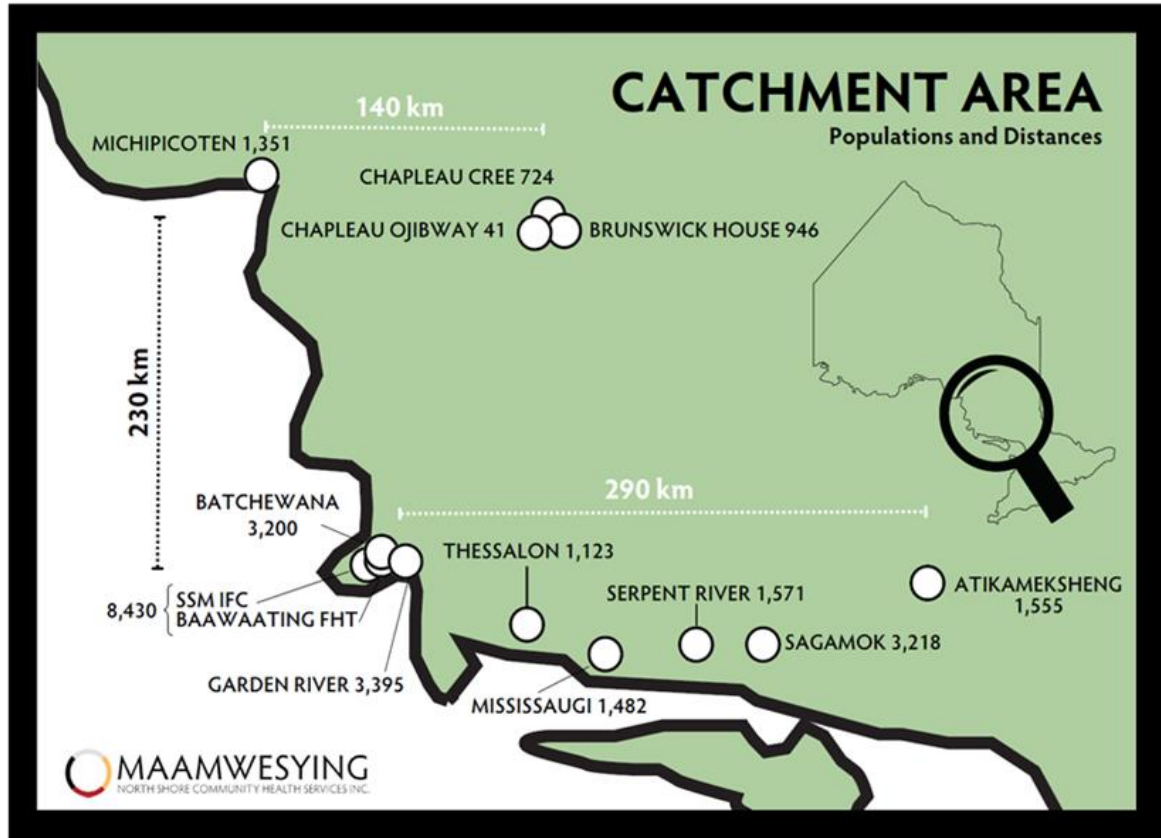
Collaborative Partners

- Collaborative Agreement established
- Community supports vision and mission of the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team
- Advisement and input into the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team

Supportive Partners

- Letters of support for the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team
- Support vision and mission of the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team
- Receives updates regarding Maamwesying Ontario Health Team progress.

Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's Core Partners and Catchment Area



- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
- Sagamok Anishnawbek
- Serpent River First Nation
- Mississauga First Nation
- Thessalon First Nation
- Garden River First Nation
- Batchewana First Nation
- Indigenous Friendship Centre of Sault Ste. Marie
- Brunswick House First Nation
- Michipicoten First Nation
- North Shore Tribal Council
- Benbowpoka Treatment Centre
- Maamwesying North Shore Community Health Services Inc.

Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's Collaborative Partners



- Elliot Lake General Hospital
- Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre
- Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services
- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
- North Shore Health Network
- Health Sciences North

- Lady Dunn Health Centre
- Chapleau Health Services
- Sault Area Hospital
- Algoma Public Health
- Sudbury Public Health



OUR MODEL



Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's Lower Limb Preservation Journey

In October 2022, the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team and Health Sciences North were approached by Ontario Health to take part in one of six Lower Limb Preservation Demonstration Programs across the province. The goal of the project is to:

- Reduce avoidable non-traumatic major lower-limb amputations
- Improve equitable access to high quality best-practice early screening, cardiovascular risk factor modification, and integrated lower-limb wound care




Northeast Lower Limb Preservation Table (NELPT)

Consists of:

- community members with lived experience (diabetes, peripheral vascular disease or amputations)
- Primary care providers within our catchment area
- Diabetic nurse educators
- Vascular surgeons
- Community nurses
- Chiropodists





Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's Lower Limb Preservation Priorities:

1. Diabetes and Peripheral Vascular Disease Prevention
 - Standardized LLP Assessments
 - Hands on LLP education/ Capacity building for health care providers
 - Standardized topical wound care products
 - Community engagement and education
2. Referral and Care Pathways
 - Future state process map (digital)
 - Standardized Vascular center referral form/ information
3. Awareness of Existing Services/ Cultural Awareness and Sensitivities.
 - Mapping existing services (Care Dove/ Health 811)
 - Indigenous Resource Library
 - Cultural competency and sensitivity training²²

Milestones & Highlights of the LLP Project



Highlights:

1. Standardized assessment forms, equipment, and wound care supplies
2. PCP and frontline staff LLP project by-in
3. Positive community engagement
4. Offloading footwear services
5. Impactful stories from First Nation community members with lived experience who have benefited from the program.

Speed Bumps:

1. Physiotherapist by-in for offloading footwear
2. Vast geography
3. Clinic staff capacity
4. Digital LLP process map booklet (timely)

Areas for Improvement:

1. Continuation of the hands-on LLP education
2. Increased regular clinic visits

Achievements for the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team this year

1. Community Engagement "Your Feet and Diabetes"
2. Offering Offloading footwear using the Darco All Purpose Shoe
3. LLP Assessments are becoming part of our PCP and Frontline staff's practice.



Lessons Learned: The PCP and frontline staff see the LLP work beneficial for their clients



Positive Experiences for PCP and front line staff (client story)



Barriers: Frontline staff capacity



Maamwesying's Next Steps

- We hope to spread and scale the work to acute care centers, other local clinics/ organizations. Future collaborations;
 - Thessalon Primary care Clinic
 - Elliot Lake Ste. Joseph Hospital
- Goals: To have all clients who are at risk or who have Diabetes to have a comprehensive lower limb assessment completed yearly.
- Solutions to challenges encountered: continue to promote the LLP work, demonstrate positive impacts to build capacity in each clinic.

Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle (IDHC)



Lower Limb Preservation Initiative Niagara



The Vision

Strengthening Indigenous Community Capacity to Reduce the Impact of Diabetes

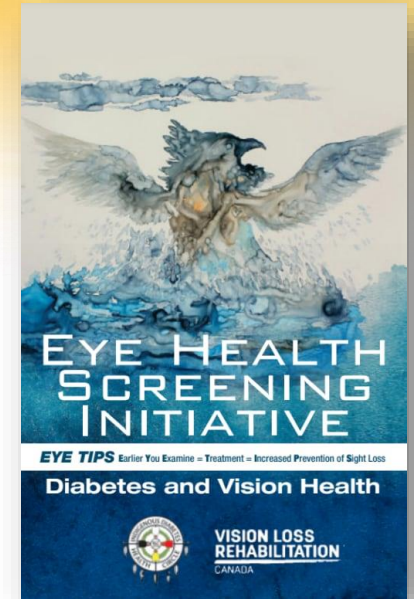


This work is done with the appreciation that Indigenous peoples have the tools, knowledge and ability to make healthy choices and live free of diabetes – now and in future generations.

Client Services Department



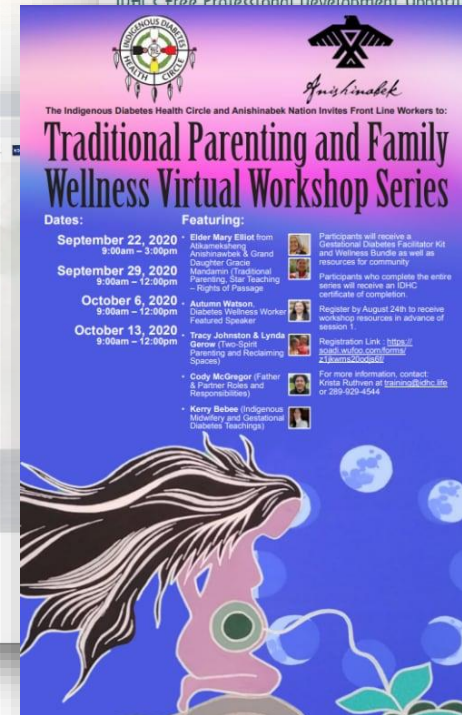
- **Foot Care Services**
 - Wholistic Foot Care Events
- **Foot Care Program**
 - Self-care and Prevention Resources
 - Sustainable Ongoing Foot Care Clinics
 - Individual Foot Care Subsidies
- **Vision Care Program**
 - Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Training Initiative
- **Traditional Wellness Program**
 - Virtual One-on-One Confidential Consultations with Traditional Practitioners



The Knowledge Department

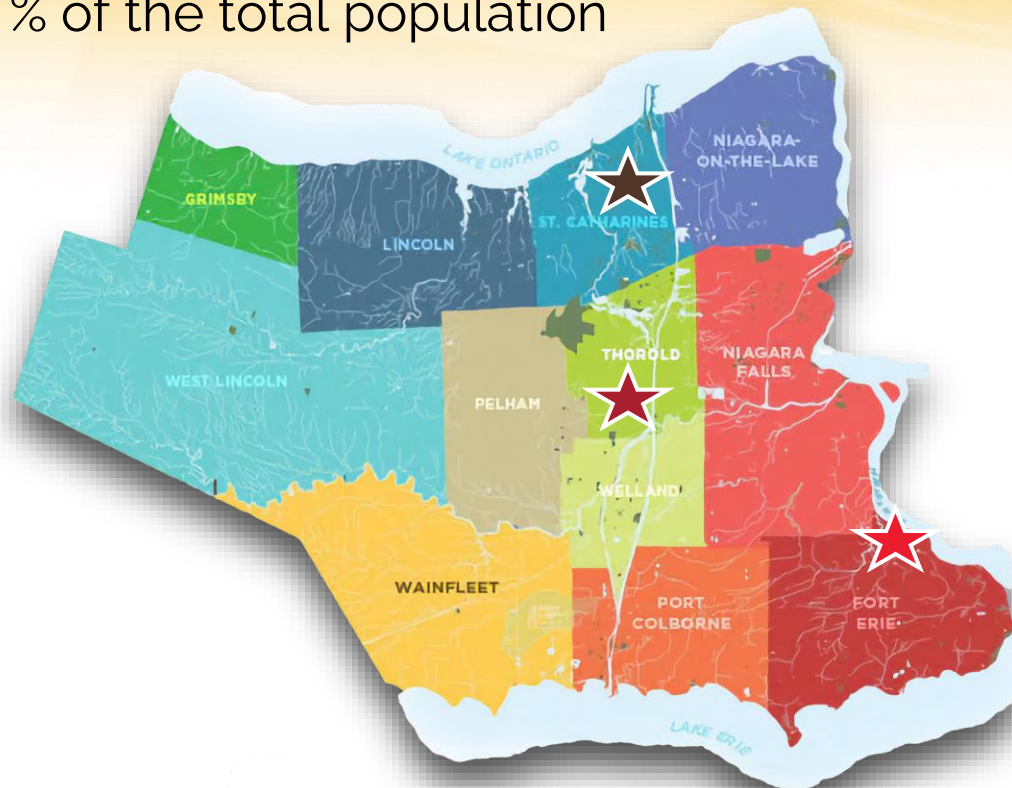
The Knowledge Department offers frontline workers the opportunity to earn professional certifications with individual workshops and trainings, including through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

- Core Trainings
- E-Learning
- Custom Trainings
- Regular Webinars and Programming
- Learning Platform
- Resources and Kits



Lower Limb Preservation Initiative

As of 2021, the Niagara Region is home to 13,960 self-declared Indigenous individuals, representing roughly 3 % of the total population



Partnerships & Integrated Pathway Development

Partnerships formed from hosting events and relationship building with community:

- Vascular Care
 - Niagara Vascular
 - Niagara Vascular Surgery
- Wound Care
 - Compass Community Care
 - Ontario Health at Home
- Primary Care
 - Bridges Community Health Centre

Partnerships & Integrated Pathway Development

Highlights:

1. Inclusion of culturally safe providers
2. Inclusion of 2 vascular clinics
 - Self referral clinic
3. Inclusion of neighboring advanced wound care physician

Speed Bumps:

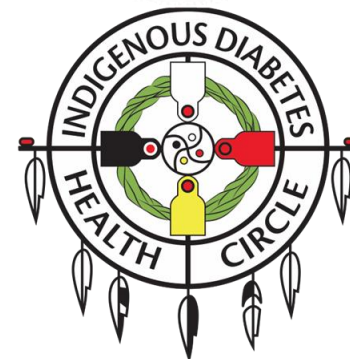
1. Lack of safe & trusted advanced wound care physician
2. Siloed health organizations
3. Access to reliable transportation to attend appointments

Areas for Improvement:

1. Establishment of clear communication channels amongst service providers for status updates on client referrals

Our Pathway

Our pathway starts with our community members. Whether they enter the pathway by visiting us or one of our partners they will be connected with a primary care provider through Bridges Community Health Centre or DAHAC. They will also have access to the traditional healing program as well as access to the diabetic retinopathy screening program.



Our Community Partners

Bridges is located in Fort Erie and has a well-established partnership with FENFC. They provide primary care practitioners and are an active partner in our pathway. Practitioners provide referrals to Chiropodists, wound care specialist and vascular surgeons.



Compass has chiropodists that have wound care training and can refer to vascular surgeons. The frequency in which they see clients is based on their assessments. Compass has 4 clinics within the region.



De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre is located in St. Catharines and has nurse practitioners that can make referrals for wound care, vascular assessments and chiropodists.



Risk Level

The foot care nurse will determine the level of care required for each client upon assessment. Each client is seen every 6 weeks. Some, depending on the condition of their feet may be seen more frequently.

Low

Presence of DM with ongoing corn or callus, recurrent ingrown nails, thickened nails and/or undiagnosed pain in feet

Moderate

Presence of DM with loss of protective sensation (LOPS) deformity and/or PAD

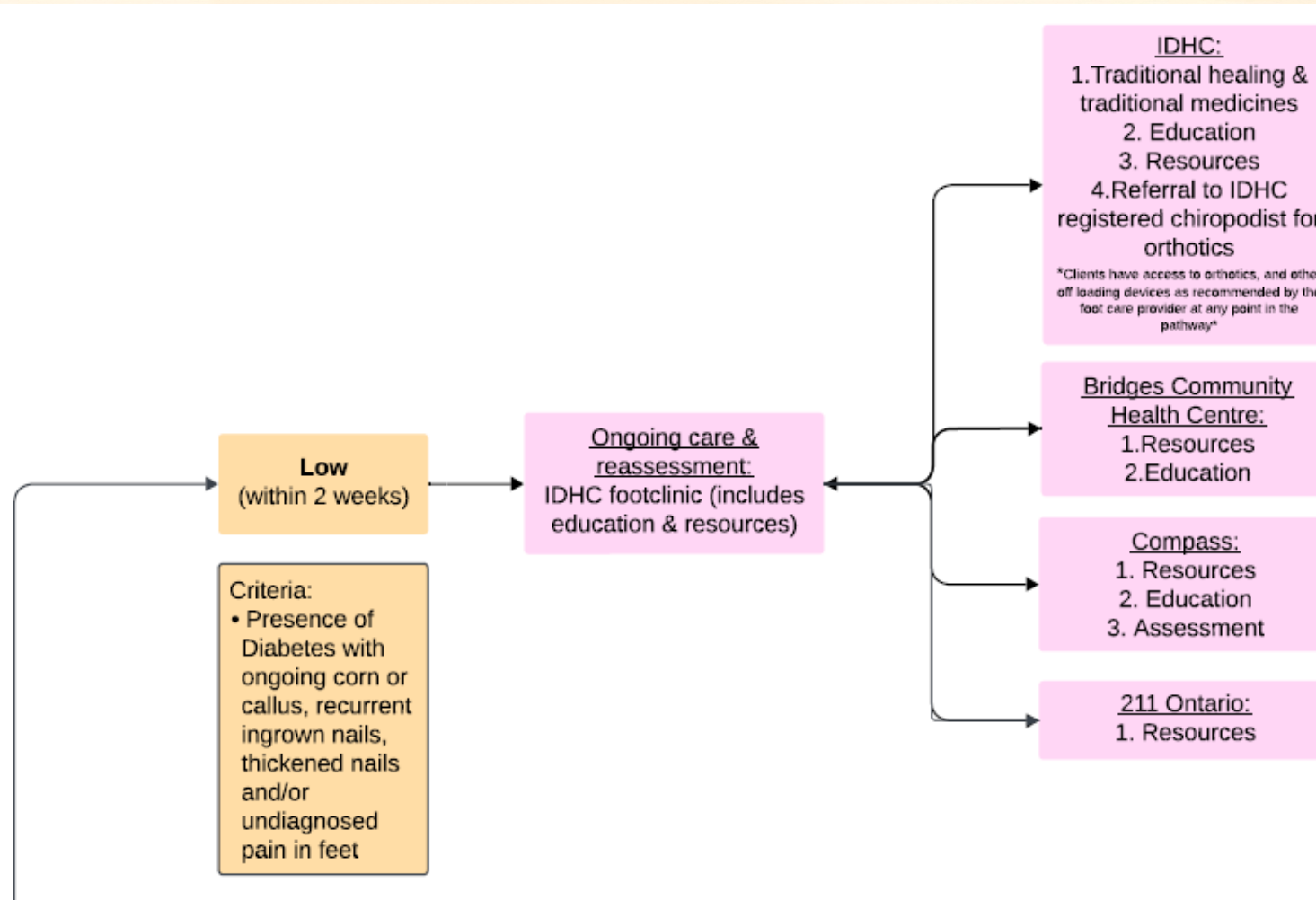
High

Presence of DM with LOPS, deformity, PAD evidence of pressure, reduced kidney function (Stage 4 or 5). Previous ulcer and/or amputation.

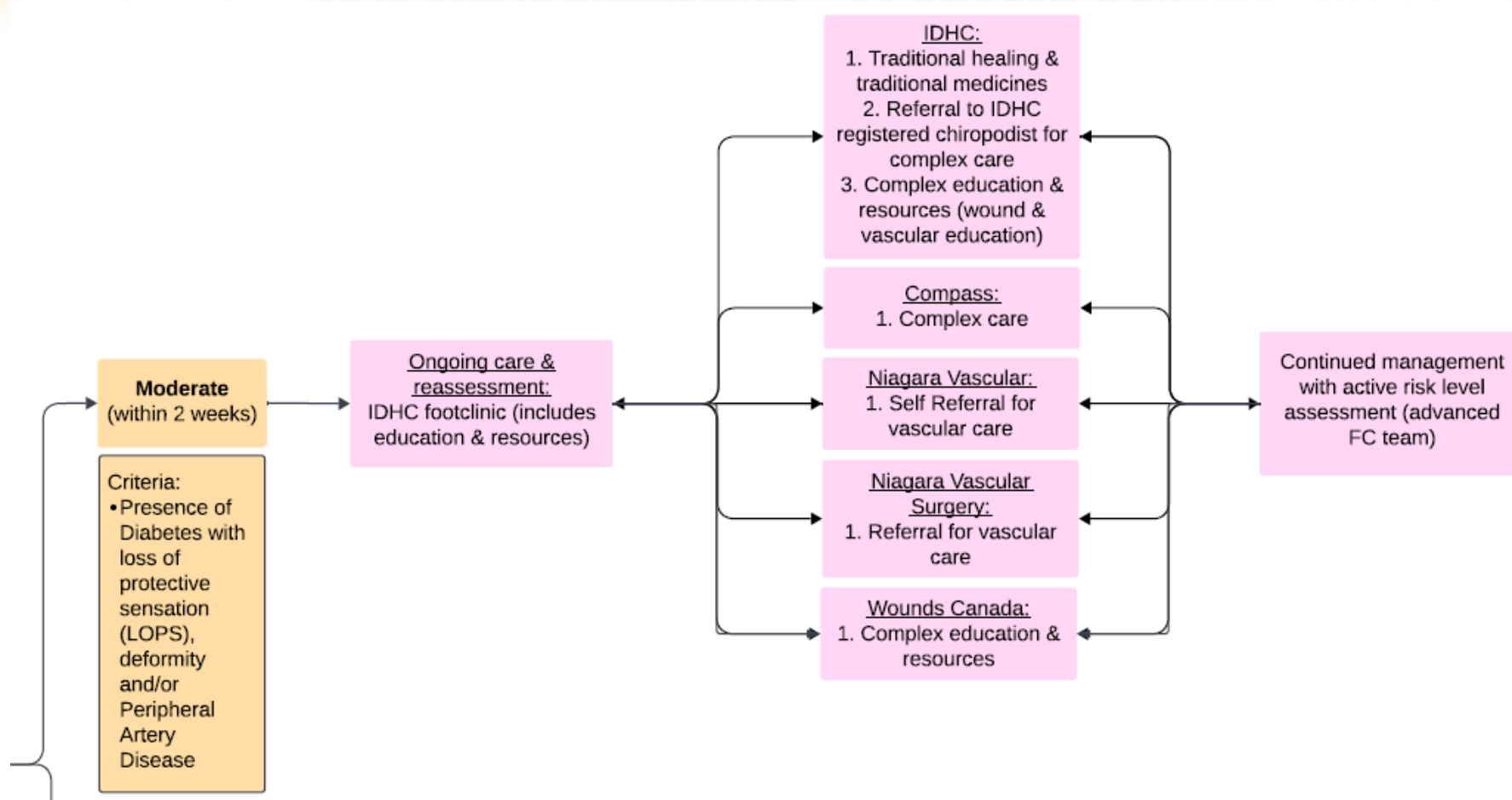
Urgent

Active ulcer or infection or ongoing corns/calluses, reduced kidney function, uncontrollable, diabetes, active charcot foot

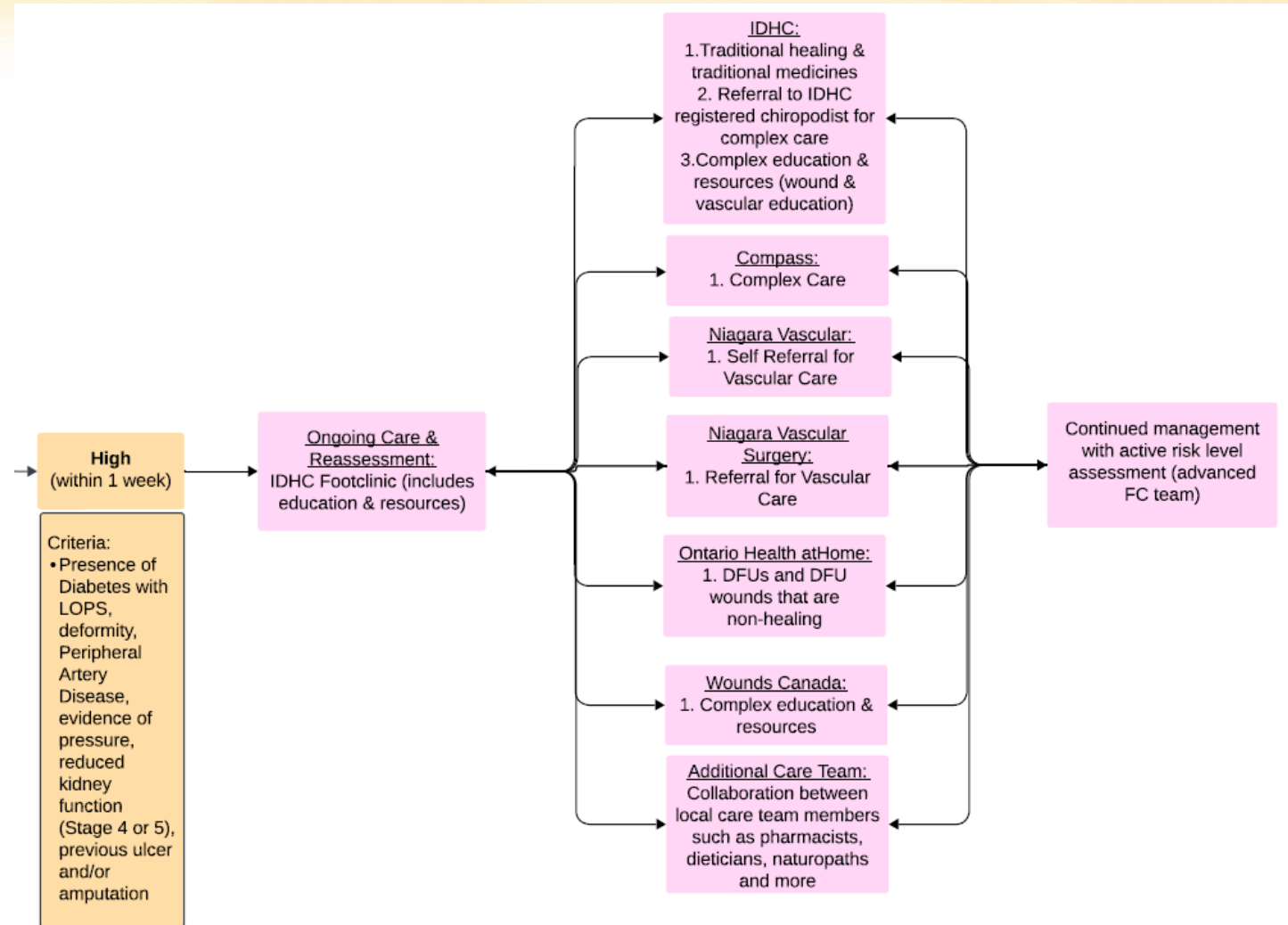
Low Risk Level



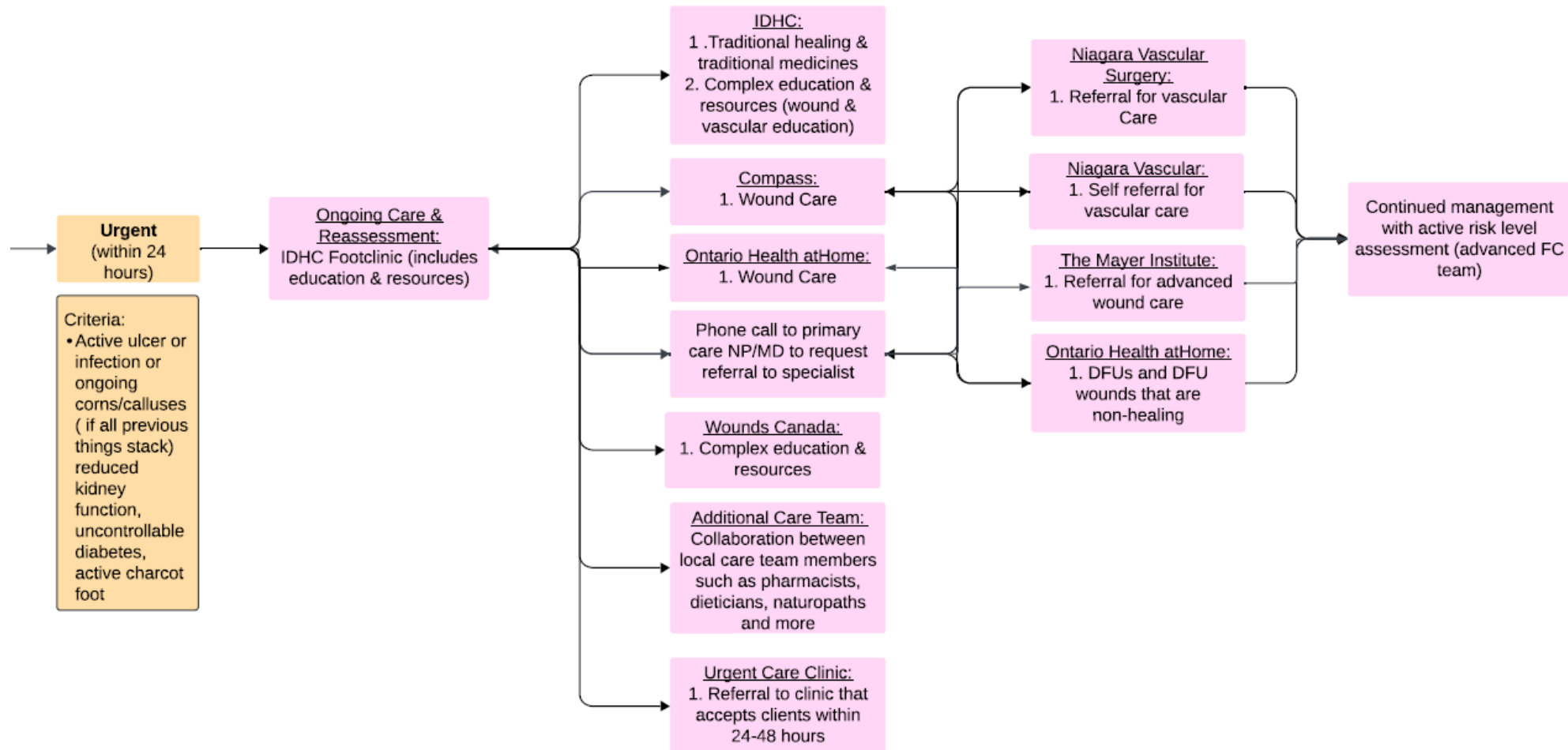
Moderate Risk Level



High Risk Level



Urgent Risk Level



Next Steps



Depending on available funding, we hope to implement some of our recommendations from the needs assessment

- Comprehensive Training for Frontline Health Workers and Caregivers
- Integration of Traditional Teachings and Cultural Protocol
- Facilitate sharing circles for individuals & family members
- Inclusion of a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in Community Outreach
- Collaborate with Mobile Healthcare Clinics Across the Niagara Region
- Demonstrate clinical and cost effects benefits to policymakers and funders
- Emphasize relationship building and meaningful engagement

Ontario Health



FNIMUI-led LLP Funding Opportunity

Building off the success of the 2024/25 LLP projects, Ontario Health (OH) recognizes the opportunity to expand the opportunity to advance lower-limb preservation (LLP) in First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous (FNIMUI) communities across Ontario through the provision of culturally appropriate, person-centered care across the continuum for FNIMUI peoples with diabetes and peripheral vascular disease.

Opportunity

FNIMUI-led LLP initiatives aimed at reducing avoidable, non-traumatic, major lower-limb amputations for Indigenous communities and improving equitable access to high-quality best practice care through:

1. Integrated, connected, collaborative care;
2. Coordinated and consistent wound management; and
3. Early identification and preventative management.

EOI Process

- A completed Expression of Interest (EOI) application is currently being shared with interested FNIMUI communities and organizations to be considered for this funding opportunity. Applications are due June 27th, 2025.

Funding Details

- FNIMUI communities or organizations will receive three years of financial support (up to \$500,000 per year) with a potential opportunity for continued funding.

- The EOI application will be circulated following the webinar.
- Please contact Rebecca.Love@ontariohealth.ca if you have any questions.

Reflection/Questions



**Miigwetch
Meegwetch
Maarsii
Nakurmiik
Nia:wen
Thank you!**