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on behalf of the Can-SOLVE CKD Network Indigenous Peoples' Engagement and Research Council

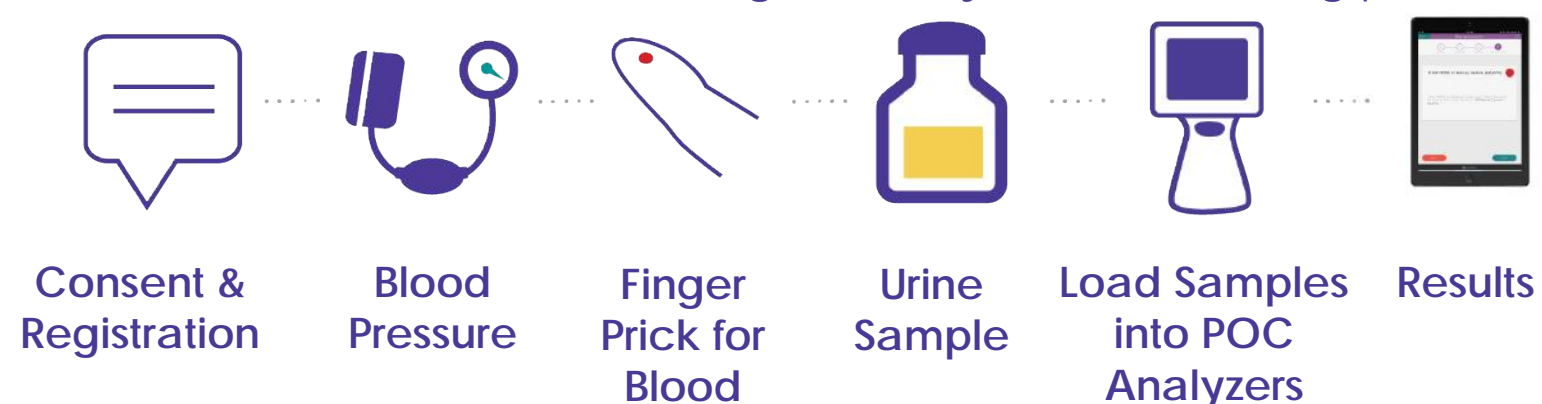
INTRODUCTION

- The Can-SOLVE CKD Network is working with BC Renal and the First Nations Health Authority to develop and implement a new program that will bring kidney, diabetes, and blood pressure checks to First Nations communities. Kidney Check is an innovative, first-of-its-kind program that will transform early detection of kidney disease in rural and remote Indigenous communities across British Columbia.
- If kidney disease is detected early, progression can be delayed and treatment becomes possible. However, many Indigenous people living in rural and remote communities face barriers to accessing appropriate care and are more likely to reach end-stage kidney disease compared to individuals who live closer to urban centres.

METHODS

- Kidney Check is a screening, triage, and treatment program using point-of-care testing and trained health care teams. Each participating community has the opportunity to design and work with the Can-SOLVE CKD team to develop a locally acceptable program, which helps to identify healthy kidneys as well as those with mild, moderate or severe kidney problems.
- Teams consisting of a nurse and health care aide/clinical assistant will be identified in each community and trained to conduct the screening activities. Testing will be conducted using point-of-care devices requiring only a few drops of blood and urine (see Figure 1). Results will be shared with participants in real time. Each person tested will also participate in building their own kidney health plan, including follow-up goals for maintaining kidney health.

Fig. 1: Kidney Check screening process



OUTCOMES



- Ten BC communities have been chosen through a transparent process to be part of phase 1 of the program, which is launching in Fall 2019. The ultimate aim is to roll out Kidney Check to all Indigenous communities in BC. Kidney Check programs are also under development in Alberta and Manitoba.
- Kidney Check BC is a community-led initiative, respecting the customs and ways of each individual First Nation. Project team members have traveled to each community to present this initiative to local stakeholders, obtain approval to move forward with the program, and increase community engagement for increased turn-out rates. An innovative aspect of the program is that First Nations patient partners have played a key role in its development and will continue to be involved to ensure the work is culturally appropriate and relevant to Indigenous communities.

CONCLUSIONS & DISCUSSION

- The Kidney Check program aims to help keep kidneys healthy and is working in partnership with First Nations communities to do so.

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