



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wounds Canada works with Canadian Institute for Health Information to reveal inequities in care to prevent diabetes-related leg amputations**

**Oct. 11, 2024**

Toronto, ON – Wounds Canada CEO Mariam Botros, DCh, DE, IIWCC, MEd, and Irmajean Bajnok, RN, BScN, MScN, PhD, Wounds Canada education and policy director, have partnered with Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) researchers on the recently published report “Equity in diabetes care: A focus on lower limb amputation.” (Additional researchers involved include Zaina Albalawi, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Charles de Mestral, Unity Health Toronto and Diabetes Action Canada; Louise McRae, Public Health Agency of Canada; Cynthia Robitaille, Public Health Agency of Canada; and Baiju Shah, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and University of Toronto.)

The CIHI report was prompted by the 2021 *National Framework for Diabetes Act*, which called for expanded data collection and reporting on diabetes-related indicators with a focus on health inequities. Equity of preventative care is an issue across Canada. Wounds Canada speaks for Canadians to promote prevention and to ensure that all Canadians have the same, and timely, access to best-practice-based care. Because lower-limb amputations are largely preventable, timely access to care is essential.

The mission of Wounds Canada to be the voice of patients aligns well with assisting at-risk communities and addressing health inequities, so the partnership is a win-win: it assists the Canadian public and helps inform policymakers who are ultimately responsible for increasing health-care access.

Wounds Canada helps Canadians by forging these types of partnerships and understands that ongoing monitoring will be critical, as the number of individuals living with diabetes continues to grow.

Key findings from the report include:

- From 2020–2021 to 2022–2023, there were more than 3,000 leg amputations and more than 4,500 ankle, foot or toe amputations associated with diabetes annually.

- Patients who received a leg amputation spent a lengthy 19 days in hospital, at an average cost of \$47,000 per stay.
- Lower limb amputations related to diabetes disproportionately impact men, those living in neighbourhoods with lower income, lower education and higher social isolation and those living in rural and remote areas.

This report will help focus policy makers and health-care providers on early prevention and effective interventions and provide individuals with diabetes and their families with necessary resources and support programs. Wounds Canada will use these data to advocate across the country for more equitable care for all Canadians.

**To arrange an interview please contact:** Larry Sawyer at  
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*Established in 1995, Wounds Canada is the voice for people in Canada at risk of, or living with, wounds and their providers. Our mission is to build a healthier Canada by advancing skin health and excellence in wound management. Wounds Canada is holding an educational conference October 17–19 in London, ON, and the public is invited. For more information visit [www.woundscanada.ca](http://www.woundscanada.ca).*