

PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE Release

The Ministry of Health Invites Participation in Chronic Kidney Disease Community Survey

Hamilton, Bermuda: Monday, 12 June 2023 – The Ministry of Health invites those members of our community who have been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (“CKD”) to participate in the Chronic Kidney Disease Community Survey (“the Survey”).

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Bermuda residents through universal health coverage and health system reform, the Ministry is working to develop a Chronic Kidney Disease Integrated Care Pathway.

Integrated care pathways are multidisciplinary approaches that detail the essential care steps for people with specific needs, in this case people living with CKD. They cover patient care from beginning to end and define what happens, when and who is responsible at any stage of the care journey.

“The recently conducted Joint Strategic Needs Assessment highlights the fact that chronic kidney disease has a disproportionate impact on Bermuda’s health burden and is linked to other important chronic diseases in Bermuda, including diabetes, obesity and hypertension,” states Minister of Health, the Hon. Kim Wilson, JP MP.

“It also appears to have a disproportionate cost burden. The current path we are on regarding CKD is not sustainable, which is why the development of this integrated care pathway was prioritised. The end goal,” she continued, “is to improve access to health services and the overall health outcomes of those living with CKD, as we work to build a more sustainable health system for Bermuda.”

The Chronic Kidney Disease Community Survey was launched earlier this month. Those who complete and submit feedback should have been formally diagnosed with CKD and be receiving treatment for the disease. All responses must be submitted by **25 June 2023**.

Those wishing to provide feedback can access the Survey using the following link - [Chronic Kidney Disease Community Survey](#). It will take no more than 15 minutes to complete and feedback will remain anonymous.

“Participating in this survey is an opportunity for our community members to use their voices and have a say in health system reform,” encourages Minister Wilson. “We ask that those reading this article spread the word so that participation levels can be as high and diverse as possible.”

The Chronic Kidney Disease Integrated Care Pathway initiative is being driven by a multidisciplinary working group that is Chaired by Bermuda Hospitals Board Consultant Nephrologist, Dr. Peter Topham. The care pathway mapping process will include a series of one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders such as health service providers, those living with CKD and their families, stakeholder workshops, and

surveying the broader community with this survey. All feedback received will inform the development of a map of Bermuda's current and future CKD care journey.

"In Bermuda, chronic kidney disease is all too common and estimated to be found in approximately 14% of Bermuda's overall population. This rises to 30% of those older than 65 years," shares Dr. Topham. "The prevalence of kidney disease in Bermuda is not only having a detrimental impact on the lives of those living with the disease, but also placing an enormous burden on the Island's health system. The increasing need for CKD-related health services, combined with the rising costs of providing long-term dialysis is unsustainable. The Chronic Kidney Disease Integrated Care Pathway should not only assist in improving the experience and outcomes of existing CKD patients, but also enable an increased focus on prevention. Prevention is critical to a sustainable way forward."

ABOUT THE BERMUDA HEALTH STRATEGY AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE:

The Bermuda Health Strategy 2022 – 2027 ("The Health Strategy" was developed as the next phase of work for the Ministry of Health as it works to achieve the vision of *"healthy people in healthy communities"*. The Health Strategy provides the frame to shift Bermuda's health system as it works to implement Universal Health Coverage and shift to a more people-centred approach to healthcare that focuses on delivering better care that meets the needs of individuals and families today and into the future. Bermuda's Universal Health Coverage programme is a multi-year, multi-phased initiative that seeks to ensure *"all people have equitable access to needed informative, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that people do not suffer financial hardship when paying for these services and critical medicines."*

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