

Primary Care Day Conference

Name of Project/Initiative	Renal Health: Point of Care Testing in Rural and Indigenous Communities
Goal	<p>The goal of this project is to reduce systemic inequalities for people living rurally by offering timely and accessible point-of-care (POC) renal screening for earlier diagnosis with individualized treatment plans and education. This comprehensive strategy is culturally safe and effective as it leverages partnerships with primary care teams in home communities and is the catalyst for a cascade of care necessary to address high burdens of chronic disease in rural and Indigenous communities.</p>
Critical Success Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reallocation of existing health resources to enable delivery of the project • Collaboration with health care teams in home communities • Funding for point of care testing equipment and consumables • Flexibility and adaptability to integrate into existing community services • Champions to set up, maintain and support • Meaningful partnerships with communities
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek guidance early from others with POC testing experience to understand the screening process and equipment function • Learned that existing POC testing programs are not testing new individuals for diagnosis; only ongoing monitoring • Explore reallocation of existing human resources and delegate specific tasks appropriately • Document impact for individuals and health system to promote awareness and encourage future participation
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