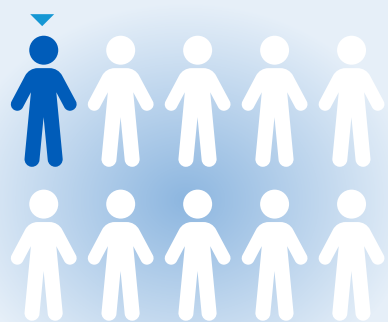


GOING UPSTREAM on Chronic Kidney Disease

Toward an Ontario Chronic Disease Strategy

ACT EARLIER. IMPROVE OUTCOMES. STRENGTHEN ONTARIO'S SYSTEM.

1 in 10 Ontarians has
Chronic Kidney Disease
(CKD)¹ – most don't know it.



CKD is a **progressive, life-threatening disease** that develops silently and is often diagnosed only after irreversible damage has occurred.



There is no cure – advanced disease leads to **dialysis or transplant**



Certain racial and ethnic populations are high-risk, **Indigenous people are 3x more likely to have CKD**²



Closely linked to diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease



Costs reach **\$11.7B annually in Canada**,³ driven by avoidable late-stage care

CKD is often a preventable driver of health system strain hiding in plain sight.

Acting upstream will:



Improve patient outcomes



Reduce costly late-stage interventions, avoid dialysis, and free-up hospital capacity



Support Ontario's priorities on access, **system capacity, and sustainability**

Three Actions to Move
CKD Care Upstream



Expand early detection in primary care and pharmacies

Integrate CKD testing into routine primary care pathways and proactively reach high-risk populations through community-based screening, pharmacies, and culturally appropriate outreach.



Strengthen coordinated and equitable early CKD care

Improve integration across providers and deliver targeted interventions to reduce access barriers for high-risk populations.



Integrate CKD into chronic disease care

Embed CKD education, screening and management in diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular pathways.



Read the **Kidney Foundation of Canada's Taking Action on Chronic Kidney Disease in Canada: A National Strategic Framework**



Read **LSO's vision paper Going Upstream: Toward an Ontario Chronic Disease Strategy, starting with Diabetes**

¹ Sundström J, Bodegard J, Bollmann A et al. Prevalence, outcomes, and cost of chronic kidney disease in a contemporary population of 2.4 million patients from 11 countries: The CaReMe CKD study. The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, 2022; 20.

² Canadian Institute for Health Information. End-Stage Renal Disease Among Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Treatment and Outcomes. February 2013.

³ Deloitte. Health Economic Impact of Improving Chronic Kidney Disease Management in Canada. Commissioned by Kidney Foundation of Canada. November 2025.