Improvements in Limb Preservation at Cone Health
Moses Cone Hospital – Cone Health

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Background
There is an opportunity to reduce the presenting severity of infection, thereby impacting the sepsis burden and amputation rate, if we can extend resources to these high-risk patients earlier in their disease course. Historically, patient follow-up care after inpatient episodes has been inconsistent and fragmented. These patients have specific challenges that require an interdisciplinary team approach and a system-wide perspective in order to engage the necessary resources to achieve a successful outcome. Programs that have implemented successful integrated multidisciplinary care and guidelines-based clinical pathways have seen dramatic improvements in morbidity and mortality.

Goals
Related to the strategic priorities of patient value and access and growth, the team focused on the below metrics:

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<th>Patient Value</th>
<th>Access &amp; Growth</th>
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<td>Development of standardized clinical pathways for lower extremity wound patients</td>
<td>Launch of pedal access program in the peripheral vascular (PV) lab</td>
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<td>Hire a PV nurse navigator</td>
<td>Creation of a multidisciplinary CLI clinic</td>
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<td>Development of a screening/referral process for CLI patients</td>
<td>Creation of a Vascular Rehab Program</td>
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Improvement Process
A multidisciplinary team of nursing and service line leaders, executives, project managers, and physicians that were aligned around common goals was recruited for this effort. The team met several times and completed a SWOT and gap analysis, as well as a data analysis. A core team was developed to align and drive efforts toward the goals. The group created order sets, clinical pathways, and performed a pilot involving Ankle Brachial Index screens in primary care offices.

Results/Outcomes:
The 25% reduction in amputations and increased testing and treatments resulted in an overall net downstream revenue of approximately $250,000. Ongoing work includes hiring of the PV RN Navigator, creating a vascular rehab program, and increasing awareness of order sets and treatment pathways through education of community physicians and caregivers. The team will also work on increasing care coordination with Home Health agencies and local Wound Care Centers. The team’s goal is a multidisciplinary CLI clinic that includes availability of all specialties needed to treat lower extremity wounds in one visit.