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### **Development of a Calciphylaxis Risk Assessment and Screening Tool to Assist in the Identification of Primary and Secondary Calciphylaxis Lesions**

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**The Problem:** Calciphylaxis, primarily seen in the end stage renal disease (ESRD) population, is a systemic disease process that carries a high mortality rate. In its late stages, the symptom burden can negatively impact the patient's health related quality of life. There are very few random controlled trials to inform treatment.

**Approach to the Problem:** Despite this lack of evidence, the literature clearly supports the need for routine screening, early diagnosis, and prompt treatment to improve outcomes on an individual and population level. The literature, however, does not provide any evidence or clinical screening tools to inform practice.

**Purpose of Presentation:** The focus of this DNP project was to address this practice gap by developing a calciphylaxis risk assessment and screening tool (the tool). Designed to be an extension of the monthly foot inspection and pain assessment, the tool can easily be integrated into the dialysis routine with minimal disruptions in workflow.

**Implications for Practice:** The tool can be used as an interdisciplinary approach to achieve early intervention by empowering nephrology nurses to assume a proactive leadership role in calciphylaxis disease management. The nurse leader, collaborating with the ESRD patient and interdisciplinary team can develop a patient centered plan of care aimed at reducing disease burden, enhancing quality of life, and ultimately improving population health.

**Dissemination:** The tool was presented to a group of nephrology staff as part of the DNP project. Feedback has been positive. As the incidence of calciphylaxis increases, the need for routine screening is evident. The tool is now being offered to the nephrology community to be further developed, validated, and implemented into practice.

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