

## **Danielle Fox – University of Calgary**

***Project: Urgent start peritoneal dialysis: The implementation of an enhanced program***

### **Biography**



Danielle holds a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the University of Lethbridge, as well as a Master of Nursing degree from the University of Calgary. Clinically she has worked as a registered nurse in various roles, most recently as a clinical nurse educator for the peritoneal dialysis and chronic kidney disease clinics in southern Alberta. She aspires to be a clinician scientist, driving innovative and impactful research questions based on her clinical work.

Currently Danielle is a doctoral student in the department of Community Health Sciences and proud to be a member of the Division of Nephrology with the privilege to learn from various research experts.

Danielle is passionate about conducting research that improves health care systems for patients and their families. Her research focuses on finding ways to best support people who manage complex care in home settings in hopes of creating both a positive and sustainable care experience. Her current research aims to improve care within this domain for people with kidney disease, however she hopes to expand her research to other care settings. She uses qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods in her work, and she looks forward to enhancing her skills in patient-oriented research through the Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship.

### **Project Summary**

One in ten Canadians have chronic kidney disease, which can lead to kidney failure. Hemodialysis (HD) and peritoneal dialysis (PD) are the two most common types of treatments for kidney failure and have similar patient outcomes. HD is most often done in hospitals or clinic and is very expensive. This has led to the promotion of PD, a largely home-based dialysis therapy which is significantly less costly to provide and has other benefits.

Many people need to start dialysis suddenly. Unfortunately, HD is the default way to start dialysis urgently because it is easier to get people on the therapy. This means that many people who choose PD do not get the type of dialysis they want. Urgent PD start programs are an option to overcome this problem but require a well-organized program. Urgent PD start programs are underutilized in Alberta even though they are successful elsewhere.

This research will improve the urgent PD start process by creating an effective program. The program will be created with input from patients and families, program administrators and front-line staff. This will ensure it meets the needs of its end users, giving people that want to do dialysis at home the ability and support to start successfully. The program will be started in Calgary, Alberta but will hope to be used in other areas in Canada if successful. This work will improve the care and health of Canadians living with kidney failure by getting them home on their therapy of choice as soon as possible.