Peripheral vascular disease in feet code N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	270656
Registration status:	Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	A code set representing whether peripheral vascular disease is present in either foot.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	**Meaning**
Permissible values:	1	Yes - peripheral vascular disease is present in the feet
	2	No - peripheral vascular disease is not present in the feet
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Collection Methods:

If it is mild, peripheral vascular disease can be completely without symptoms. However, compromised blood supply in the long term could cause claudication (pain in the calf after walking for a distance or up an incline or stairs), rest pain or vascular ulceration.

Physical examination is necessary to assess the peripheral vascular circulation. Purplish colour and cold temperature of feet are indications to suspect that the circulation may be impaired.

Palpate pulses:

The simplest method to estimate blood flow and to detect ischaemia to the lower extremities is palpation of the foot pulses (posterior tibial and dorsalis pedis arteries) in both feet. Note whether pulses are present or absent. If pulses in the foot can be clearly felt, the risk of foot ulceration due to vascular disease is small.

Test capillary return:

A helpful confirmation sign of arterial insufficiency is pallor of the involved feet after 1 - 2 min of elevation if venous filling time is delayed beyond the normal limit of 15 sec.

Doppler probe:

If pulses cannot be palpated, apply a small hand-held Doppler, placed over the dorsalis pedis or posterior tibial arteries to detect pulses, quantify the vascular supply and listen to the quality of the signal.

When the foot pulses are very weak or not palpable, the risk assessment could be completed by measuring the ankle brachial index (ankle pressure/ brachial pressure). Normal ankle brachial index is 0.9 - 1.2. An ankle brachial index less than 0.6 indicates compromised peripheral circulation.

Relational attributes

Data elements implementing this value domain:	Person—peripheral vascular disease status (foot), code N Health, Superseded 21/09/2005