# Peripheral vascular disease in feet - status

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at http://meteor.aihw.gov.au

## Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000840 Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The outcome of assessment for the presence of peripheral vascular

disease in either foot.

Context: Public health, health care and clinical settings.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational CODE

form:

Representation N

layout:

Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain: 1 Yes- peripheral vascular disease is present in the

feet

No- peripheral vascular disease is not present in the

feet

9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide For Use: Record whether or not there is an absence of both dorsalis pedis

and posterior tibial pulses in either foot.

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 handheld 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.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Foot deformity version 1 relates to the data element Foot lesion - active version 1 relates to the data element Foot ulcer - current version 1 relates to the data element Foot ulcer - history version 1 relates to the data element Lower limb amputation due to vascular disease version 1

> relates to the data element Peripheral neuropathy - status version 1 relates to the data element Health professionals attended - diabetes mellitus version 1

#### Administrative Attributes

Source Document: National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative

(NDOQRIN) data dictionary.

Source Organisation: National Diabetes Data Working Group

Comments: Peripheral vascular disease is the leading cause of occlusion of blood vessels of the extremities with increasing prevalence in individuals with hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and diabetes mellitus, and in cigarette smokers.

> Peripheral vascular disease is estimated to occur 11 times more frequently and develop about 10 years earlier in people with diabetes.

Presence of symptomatic peripheral vascular disease requires an interdisciplinary approach including a vascular surgeon, an endocrinologist or physician specialising in diabetes care.

References:

Foot Examination - an interactive guide; Australian Prescriber

#### Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Physical wellbeing

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

DSS - Diabetes (clinical) From 01-Jan-03 to