

Person—peripheral vascular disease indicator (foot), code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Peripheral vascular disease in feet (status)
METEOR identifier:	302459
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 21/09/2005
Definition:	Whether peripheral vascular disease is present in either foot, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—peripheral vascular disease indicator (foot)

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code						
Data type:	Number						
Format:	N						
Maximum character length:	1						
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>No</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	1	Yes	2	No
Value	Meaning						
1	Yes						
2	No						

Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>9</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	9	Not stated/inadequately described
Value	Meaning				
9	Not stated/inadequately described				

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE 9 Not stated/inadequately described This code is not for use in primary data collections.
-----------------------	---

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE 1 Yes Record if peripheral vascular disease is present in either foot. CODE 2 No Record if peripheral vascular disease is not present 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 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.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Diabetes Data Working Group
Origin: National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative (NDOQRIN) data dictionary.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person—peripheral vascular disease status \(foot\), code N](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 21/09/2005

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Diabetes \(clinical\) NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 21/09/2005

DSS specific information:

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