

Appendix E: IWGDF risk stratification system

The IWGDF risk stratification system allows health providers to establish foot screening and examination frequency based on resulting risk categories. A person with no LOPS or PAD is considered risk 0 (very low risk for ulceration and requires only annual screening). A person with either LOPS or PAD but no other additional risk factors is risk 1 (low risk and requires screening every 6-12 months). A person with a combination of risk factors is risk 2 (moderate risk and requires screening every 3-6 months). A person with either LOPS or PAD and a history of DFU or lower-extremity amputation is risk 3 (high risk and requires screening every 1-3 months). A person with LOPS or PAD with end-stage renal disease is also risk 3 (69).

CATEGORY	ULCER RISK	CHARACTERISTICS	SCREENING FREQUENCY*
0	Very low	No LOPS and no PAD	Once a year
1	Low	LOPS or PAD	Once every 6-12 months
2	Moderate	LOPS + PAD or LOPS + foot deformity ⁶ or PAD + foot deformity	Once every 3-6 months
3	High	LOPS or PAD and one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ history of a foot ulcer ■ a lower-extremity amputation (minor or major) ■ end-stage renal disease 	Once every 1-3 months

Note: LOPS = Loss of protective sensation; PAD = peripheral artery disease. *: Screening frequency is based on expert opinion since the IWGDF reported no evidence was available to support these intervals. When the screening interval is close to a regular diabetes check-up, consider screening the foot at that check-up.

Source: Adapted with permission from: the IWGDF. Bus SA, Sacco IC, Monteiro-Soares M, et al.; International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF). Guidelines on the prevention of foot ulcers in persons with diabetes: IWGDF 2023 update [Internet]. [place unknown]: IWGDF; 2023. Available from: <https://iwgdfguidelines.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/IWGDF-2023-02-Prevention-Guideline.pdf>