

Nursing Foot Care Acuity Screening Tool

For each category, circle the response that best describes your client. Mark your response in the far-right column (e.g. 3). Then, add the total column on the right for your final tally. Refer to the legend of risk assessment. **This is not a validated tool.**

Assessment	Low risk 0	Moderate risk 1	High risk 2	Urgent foot care needed 3	Total
Skin (foot)	Intact, healthy	Dry (localized or generalized to feet), light callousing to feet	Corns on bony prominences, thickening callouses, history of fungal skin	Severe callouses, corns, cracks and/or fissures to skin, diagnosis of fungal skin (athlete's foot)	
Toenails	Short and intact, thin nail plate	Nail extends past toe tip < 1mm	Nail curved into sides of toe (involved), thick nail plate (some or all)	Very long toenails extending past the toe >2 mm, jagged edges to plates, broken toenails, very thick toenails, in grown toenail(s)	
Foot structure	No anomalies	Marked bony prominences	Bunion, hammer toes, overlapping digits	Previous amputation (partial to foot and/or leg)	
Mobility, dexterity & visual deficits	None	Reduced mobility & dexterity	Minimal activity, poor balance, reduced vision	No mobility, blind, unable to provide self care	
Loss of Protective Sensation (LOPS)	None	Restless legs, nighttime cramping to legs	Numbness & tingling of feet, ataxic gait, history of falls	Suspected or confirmed diagnosis of neuropathy	
Comorbid conditions (e.g. diabetes, Parkinson's, active cancer, M.S. vascular disease etc.)	None diagnosed	X	Well controlled with medical assistance (medication, wears pressure gradient stockings)	Condition(s) not controlled, condition(s) fragile, or unstable Client currently on chemotherapy/radiation treatment	
Pain to feet ¹	No pain	Mild Pain with walking	Moderate Pain interferes significantly with walking	Severe Pain disabling; unable to weight bear or walk	

Add total column _____

Total 0 – 4	Low risk – no foot care required at this time
Total 5 – 10	Moderate risk – monitor client’s feet for changes
Total 11 – 15	High risk – continue to monitor client’s feet – may require reassessment for urgent foot care
Total 16 – 21	Urgent risk– foot care required

How to use this tool:

The Nursing Foot Acuity Screening Tool serves as a guide to assist the Foot Care Nurse and/or nurses who are not educated in advanced foot care to assess the client’s feet, classify the severity of presenting symptoms, and determine the level of client risk. This screening tool can also be used remotely (e.g. over the phone) to determine if a client has urgent foot care needs. If a client does not meet the urgent risk criteria, the foot care nurse may provide appropriate and safe direction for their foot care in the interim.

Nursing Judgment:

Additional information may be required to determine if foot care is to be provided or not. The nurse should also consider any client behaviours or cognitive conditions, the client’s medication regimen and the client’s support network to maintain their foot health (available family member or facility health care worker). Therefore, while the client may not ‘achieve’ a valuation measured as ‘urgent level’, the nurse may justify the need to provide foot care. Furthermore, as a regulated health care professional, the nurse should document their decision to support their choice.

Disclaimer:

IMPORTANT: This tool provides suggested guidelines only, and it remains the responsibility of the individual nurse to complete their own client assessment, clinical planning, intervention and evaluation, within the scope of their regulatory college and the governing health authority. The authors assume no responsibility for the use of this tool.

References:

1- Melzack R. The McGill Pain Questionnaire: Major properties and scoring methods. Pain. 1975; 1: 277-299.
 Stein C Mendl G. The German counterpart to McGill Pain Questionnaire. Pain. 1988; 32: 251-255.