



AWMA MODULE ACCREDITATION Module FIVE: Diabetic Foot Ulcer Wound Management

INTRODUCTION

Intended learning outcomes of MODULE

The completion of an AWMA accredited 'Diabetic Foot Ulcer' module provides opportunities for health professionals to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Intellectual Skills – Knowledge and Understanding:

Upon completion of an AWMA accredited 'Diabetic foot ulcer' module, it is anticipated that the participant will demonstrate a knowledge of :

1. The pathophysiology of the diabetic foot.
2. Diagnosis and assessment of the "at risk foot".
3. The importance of diabetes management and cardiovascular risk factor modification on the diabetic foot.
4. Management strategies for diabetic foot ulceration including; wound bed preparation, dressing choice, pain management, skin care, off loading, footwear provision & preventative interventions.
5. Evidence based treatments available for the management of diabetic foot complications and associated diseases.
6. The organisation of DFU services and interdisciplinary team working.

Practical Skills – Skills and Attributes:

Upon completion of an AWMA accredited 'Diabetic foot ulcer' module, it is anticipated that the participant will be able to:

1. Identify ischemia, neuropathy and neuro-ischaemia in the diabetic foot.
2. Identify characteristics of the "at risk foot".
3. Identify and manage clinical signs of infection in the diabetic foot.
4. Make effective treatment decisions, initiate further investigations as required and know when to refer to specialist services.
5. Identify the psychological impact that the diabetic foot ulceration has on the individual and society.
6. Evaluate the provision of local diabetic foot ulceration services.

MODULE CONTENT CHECKLIST
Module SIX: Diabetic Foot Ulcer

Indicate inclusion of educational content by placing a tick in column A.

Indicate, where applicable, reasons for content not included by inserting a code (1-5)* in column C.

Note more than one code can be used.

*Codes are listed on page 5.

Inclusion (A)	Educational Content (B)	Reasons why content not included in course (Insert code 1-5)* (C)
	Overview / epidemiology -Introductory unit content plus:	
	Incidence and prevalence data for diabetes and diabetic foot complications.	
	The economic costs associated with foot ulcers.	
	National/International guidelines and targets (eg. St Vincent Declaration and others).	
	Health needs assessment.	
	Anatomy and pathophysiology -Introductory unit content plus:	
	Skeletal - foot architecture/ function in health and disease – Charcot foot.	
	Neurological - neuro-anatomy of the lower limb, nerve fibre types. Neurological - pathological changes.	
	Vascular - macro-circulation, micro-circulation.	

	<p>Risk factors associated with foot ulcer formation.</p> <p>Biomechanics of the foot – pressure profiling, foot shape, gait / walking pattern, off-loading, and footwear.</p>	
	<p>Principles of patient care - Introductory unit content plus</p>	
	<p>Importance of the Interdisciplinary team.</p>	
	<p>Cultural issues and beliefs (eg Indigineous community).</p>	
	<p>Assessment - Introductory unit content plus:</p>	
	<p>General assessment process – Wagner classification and other communication aids for the diabetic foot.</p> <p>Differential diagnosis inter-relationship of ischaemia and neuropathy.</p> <p>Neurological testing - use of objective measuring tools, monofilaments and the biothesiometer, vibration perception, tactile sensation and discrimination and reflexes.</p> <p>Vascular assessment - use of the hand-held Doppler, ABPI and toe pressures, TcPO₂ and laser Doppler.</p> <p>Assessing arthropathy - deformities, bony prominences and joint mobility.</p> <p>Investigations as required - plain radiographs, Magnetic Resonance scans.</p> <p>Assessing skin and callus including nails, presence of dryness, cracking and inter-digital maceration.</p> <p>Assessment of footwear and hosiery.</p>	

	Risk factor management	
	<p>Diabetic control. Importance of obesity management in prevention of neuropathy and vasculopathy. Nutritional assessment / management. Management of oedema - prevention and symptomatic control. Neuropathy management - prevention and symptomatic control. Vascular management – smoking, lipids, hypertension. Skin & callus management - prevention of skin cracking and callus formation.</p>	
	Prevention of foot ulcers	
	Patient and relative/carer education – hygiene, inspection, temperature and trauma avoidance.	
	Skin care such as the use of emollients, protection against moisture damage.	
	Use of guidelines and evidence-based practice in foot ulcer prevention.	
	Wound Management - Introductory unit content plus:	
	Management strategies for diabetic foot ulcers including the use of wound management products and adjunct therapies.	
	The use of guidelines and evidence-based practice to treat diabetic foot ulcers. Assessment of wound bed, surrounding skin and associated structures.	
	Principles of cleansing. Selection of cleansing agents.	
	Debridement and wound bed preparation including surgical debridement, dressings promoting autolytic debridement, use of biosurgery and topical negative pressure therapy.	

	Dressing selection including product availability relative to local circumstances and different healthcare settings.	
	Management of odour / exudate.	
	Advanced wound care products/techniques.	
	Pain management - importance of pain control even in presence of neuropathy.	
	Care of the surrounding skin - protection and prevention of maceration.	
	Off loading with open wounds - available methods including Scotch cast, windowed casts and Aircast Footwear- appropriateness, shoe shape and fitting.	
	Management of Infection - Introductory unit content plus:	
	Assessment / presentation - silent infection. Deep infections - surgical drainage. Radiological and other investigations – Isotope scans, Magnetic Resonance Scans. Adjunct therapies and their relevance and practical application.	
	Specialist Intervention - Vascular investigations and management.	
	Corrective orthopaedic surgery. Plastic and reconstructive surgery. Amputation.	
	Rehabilitation Services (Covered in Introductory Unit)	

	Systematic and local pharmacological management	
	Use of : Steroids. Cardiovascular medications. Analgesia. Antibiotics / antimicrobials. Anti- pruritics. Emollients and barrier creams.	
	Foot care services	
	Structure and management of foot care services. Integrated hospital and community care. Database and recall systems. Multi-disciplinary, multi-professional approach. Follow-up - stratified policy according to risk. Patient involvement in care.	
	Psychosocial aspects of care (Covered in Introductory Unit)	

Code	*Reasons why content not included in course
1	Learners have prior knowledge
2	Content considered irrelevant
3	Lack of time to teach this content
4	Lack of expertise to teach this content
5	Other reasons (please specify below)