Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)

- Critical limb ischemia (CLI) is a manifestation of PAD including typical chronic ischaemic rest pain or ischaemic skin lesions (ulcers or gangrene)
- Patients presenting with ascending cellulitis, rest pain, non-healing wounds, pain on exercise, and lack of pedal pulses need tertiary care.
- Symptoms of PAD may be masked by neuropathy and infection.
- Peripheral Arterial Disease is diagnosed by
  - weak/absent pedal pulse palpation (dorsalis pedis and posterior tibial)
  - reduced phasic flow
  - ABI <0.9 at rest
  - Toe pressures <50mmHg
  - TCPo2

Information Required for Referral

- Chronic ischaemic rest pain
- Gangrene
- Wounds with no improvement or advancement < 30 days
- Age 50-69 with cardiovascular risk
- Age >70
- Leg symptoms with exertion or reduced physical functioning (Claudication pain)
- Non palpable pedal pulses

Investigations Required for Referral

- Presence of Red Flags
- Duration of symptoms
- Associated symptoms
- Medications
- Medical History including infection, ischemia, uncontrolled hyperglycaemia.
- Copies of the pathology and imaging
- Surgical History – including amputation
- Podiatric/Footwear History
- Drug dependencies (ETOH/smoking)
- Social History

Fax Referral to Podiatry Outpatients

Flinders Medical Centre 8204 5020

Red Flags

- Chronic ischaemic rest pain
- Gangrene
- Wounds with no improvement or advancement < 3 days
- Age 50-69 with cardiovascular risk factor
- Claudication - short/long
- Non palpable pedal pulses

Suggested GP Management

- Systemic antibiotic therapy is required in CLI patients who develop cellulitis or spreading infection, refer to FMC ED or SAHLN Vascular team
- Consider modifying atherosclerotic risk factors: smoking cessation, weight reduction, lipid control and hypertension, antiplatelet drug therapy, diabetes management

Clinical Resources

- University of Texas Diabetes Foot Classification
- National Health and Medical Research Council Evidence Based Guideline

General Information to assist with referrals and Referral templates are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients)