

Appendix D: University of Texas Foot Classification System – Categories 4-6: Risk Factors for Amputation

CATEGORY 4A: NEUROPATHIC WOUND	CATEGORY 4B: ACUTE CHARCOT'S JOINT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protective sensation absent ■ Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) > 0.80 and toe systolic pressure >45 mmHg ■ Foot deformity normally present ■ Non-infected neuropathic ulceration (ALL UT* STAGE A wounds) ■ No acute diabetic neuropathic osteoarthoropathy (Charcot's joint) present <p>POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR CATEGORY 4A</p> <p>Same as Category 3 plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pressure reduction program instituted ■ Wound care program instituted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protective sensation absent ■ Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) > 0.80 and toe systolic pressure >45 mmHg ■ Non-infected neuropathic ulceration may be present ■ Diabetic neuropathic osteoarthoropathy (Charcot's joint) present <p>POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR CATEGORY 4B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pressure reduction program instituted ■ Thermometric and radiographic monitoring ■ If ulcer is present, treatment same as Category 4A
CATEGORY 5: THE INFECTED DIABETIC FOOT	CATEGORY 6: THE ISCHEMIC LIMB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protective sensation may or may not be present ■ Infected wound ■ Charcot's Joint may be present ■ ALL UT* STAGE B wounds <p>POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR CATEGORY 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Debridement of infected, necrotic tissue and/or bone, as indicated ■ Possible hospitalization, antibiotic treatment regimen ■ Medical management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protective sensation may or may not be present ■ Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) <0.80 and toe systolic pressure <45 mmHg or Pedal Transcutaneous Oxygen Tension < 40 mmHg ■ Ulceration may be present ■ ALL UT* STAGE C AND D wounds <p>POSSIBLE TREATMENT OF CATEGORY 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vascular consult, possible revascularization ■ If infection present, treatment same as for Category 5. Vascular consultation concomitant with control of sepsis.

Legend: *UT = University of Texas

** See Appendix E UT Foot Classification System – Categories 0-3: Risk Factors for Ulceration

Note. From “Practical criteria for screening patients at high risk for diabetic foot ulceration,” by L.A. Lavery, D.G. Armstrong, S.A. Vela, T.L. Quebedeau and J.G. Fleishchli, 1998, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 158(2), p. 157-162. Reprinted with permission of Dr. D.G. Armstrong.