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Reduction in hospital-acquired diabetes foot lesions using the Ipswich Touch Test (IpTT)

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Introduction: People with diabetes are at greater risk of hospital acquired foot lesions. The IpTT has been devised to increase foot inspection and neuropathy detection. It was introduced in Ipswich hospital in October 2010. This study determines its effectiveness in reducing hospital-acquired diabetes foot lesions. **Methods:** The clinical Quality and Patient Safety Directorate in our trust has mandated the reporting of all grade 2, 3 and 4 hospital-acquired pressure sores using the serious incidents database. Using these data as well as the hospital chemical pathology system, we were able to identify patients with diabetes and compare the number of diabetic foot lesions acquired more than 24h after admission over a four year period, two years prior and two years subsequent to its introduction. **Results:** In the two years prior, there were 66 total diabetes foot ulcers averaging 33 annually. In the first year following the intervention there were 12 lesions, a relative risk reduction (RRR) of 64%. In the second year there were 10 lesions, a RRR of 70%. **Conclusion:** We conclude that the IpTT is an effective tool to reduce foot ulceration in people with diabetes. Further studies in other trusts will help determine whether it is transferable to other organisations.