

Examination – Notes for Actor

Patient demographics:

You are Arnold, a 64-year-old male presenting to the emergency department with fever.

When the student does the monofilament test, you will say that you can't feel anything in the upper half of your foot.

Antalgic gait – pain on the left

Examination – Notes for Candidate

Role: Foundation Year 1 doctor in the emergency department

This is Arnold, a 64-year-old male who has presented to the emergency department with fever.

Please perform a DIABETIC FOOT examination. The examiner will tell you relevant signs as you go along.

You have 8 minutes to examine the patient, followed by a further 2 minutes where the examiner will ask you questions.

An invigilator will let you know when 8 minutes has elapsed.

Examination – Examiner marksheet

You will have to tell the student certain signs when they get to that stage of the exam (anything in quotation marks).

- Good professionalism throughout
 - Confident and well-practised examination with all steps and correct technique
 - Use an appropriate examination checklist like the University of Leicester checklist or Geeky Medics to mark examination steps.
 - Succinct presentation of the examination, including all positives and only relevant negatives + correct further assessments.
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- General inspection: **“left foot swollen, patient is febrile”**
 - Inspection: show the student an image of a diabetic foot ulcer. **“the ulcer is very deep and discharging a lot of pus”**
 - Palpation: **“left foot is hotter”**
 - Sensation: reduced sensation in the top half of the left foot
 - Gait: Antalgic gait left sided
 - Other tests: No abnormalities

Q1: What is your diagnosis?

- **Osteomyelitis/Infected diabetic foot ulcer**

Q2: What investigations would you like to order?

- **FBC + CRP – WCC + inflammation**
- **Doppler of the pulses**
- **Foot X-ray – osteomyelitis → MRI can be suggested**
- **Blood culture**
- **Swabs of the ulcer**
- **Cap glucose and HbA1c for diabetic control**

Q3: What is your management of this condition?

- **Optimise diabetic control**
- **IV antibiotics**
- **Surgical debridement depending on severity**

Global Impression:

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail

Patient Impression/comments: