ACP does not support NQF 0056: “Diabetes: Foot Exam.” Although we recognize the value of foot exams in diabetic patients, particularly visual inspection and sensory exam, there is no good evidence that patient outcomes are affected by regularly performed pulse exams, especially for asymptomatic patients. Therefore, we do not support this measure because it calls for all three elements in the foot exam. There is no evidence evaluating the benefit of pulse exam on patient outcomes (e.g., downstream ulceration) and the routine screening in asymptomatic patients could lead to overuse of Arterial Brachial Index (ABI) and procedures for peripheral arterial disease that may not be beneficial. Instead, there should be a focus on addressing vascular risk in all patients with an emphasis on statin treatment, blood pressure control and smoking cessation.

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