

Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) using a Handheld Doppler (Adult)

Site Applicability

All VCH & PHC sites

Practice Level

For the following professions (within their respective scope of practice) with additional education:

- NP, RN

Policy Statement

VCH & PHC nurses will follow the Decision Support Tool (DST) developed by the Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee (see guideline link below) when performing the Ankle Brachial Index procedure in adults using a handheld doppler.

Need to Know

- Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) is a non-invasive test to measure the arterial blood flow in the lower legs. It is used to screen clients for the presence and severity of arterial compromise and to identify those clients who require further vascular assessment, as well as being useful in predicting the potential for healing of lower leg wounds.
- The results of an ABI should be used in conjunction with a review of client history and a complete lower limb assessment when deciding on care.

Practice Guideline

- The Provincial DST [Procedure: Ankle Brachial Index \(ABI\) in Adults using a Handheld Doppler](#) provides detailed guidance on the procedure steps and the interpretation of the test results.

Related Documents

VCH & PHC:

- [Lower Limb Ulcers \(Arterial, Venous & Mixed\): Guidelines for Assessment and Treatment in Adults](#)

Documentation

As per site documentation guidelines

Developed by

Developed by: British Columbia Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound

Development Team Members:

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Endorsed by

VCH: (Regional SharePoint 2nd Reading)

Health Authority Professional Specific Advisory Council Chairs (HAPSAC)

Health Authority Interprofessional Advisory Council Chairs (HAIAC)

VCH Operations Directors

VCH Professional Practice Directors

PHC: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Wound & Skin Care

Final Sign-off & Approved for Posting by

Chief Nursing Officer & Executive Lead Professional Practice – VCH

Professional Practice Standards Committee - PHC

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