



van Netten, J. J., Schaper, N. C., Apelqvist, J., Bus, S. A., Hinchliffe, R. J., & Lipsky, B. A. (2020). Letter to the Editor re 'Methodological Assessment of Diabetic Foot Syndrome Clinical Practice Guidelines'. *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2020.08.035>

Peer reviewed version

Link to published version (if available):
[10.1016/j.ejvs.2020.08.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2020.08.035)

[Link to publication record in Explore Bristol Research](#)
PDF-document

This is the author accepted manuscript (AAM). The final published version (version of record) is available online via Elsevier at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2020.08.035> . Please refer to any applicable terms of use of the publisher.

University of Bristol - Explore Bristol Research

General rights

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the reference above. Full terms of use are available:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-policy/pure/user-guides/ebr-terms/>

Jaap J. van Netten¹, Nicolaas C. Schaper², Jan Apelqvist³, Sicco A. Bus¹, Robert J. Hinchliffe⁴, Benjamin A. Lipsky⁵

¹Amsterdam UMC, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. ²Div. Endocrinology, MUMC+, CARIM and CAPHRI Institute, Maastricht, The Netherlands. ³Department of Endocrinology, University Hospital of Malmö, Sweden. ⁴Bristol Centre for Surgical Research, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK. ⁵Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

Word count (incl reference): 291 of 300

Dear editor,

With pleasure did we read the article by Tan and colleagues with assessment of diabetic foot disease guidelines (1). We commend the authors on the thorough analysis and useful considerations to help improve future guidelines in this field.

As editorial board of the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF), we were of course particularly interested in this independent analysis of our guidelines. The first version of the IWGDF guidelines was published in 1999, and they have been updated every four years since. With each update, we also aimed to improve its methodological rigour. We were glad to see our efforts rewarded with high overall scores.

However, Tan and colleagues did not assess our most recent guidelines. They searched the literature on May 31, 2019, and state that institutional websites were searched for updates. Unfortunately, they have missed ours, with our 2019 update published both online (at www.iwgdfguidelines.org) and offline (at the International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot) on May 25, 2019.

In this update, we specifically aimed to improve on AGREE domains 3 (rigour of development) and 6 (editorial independence). For example, considerations underlying recommendations have been made more explicit, external review was extended and better described, and extensive conflict of interest statements have been made publicly available on our website.

We think it is helpful for readers of this journal to be aware of this most recent update of the IWGDF guidelines. We have already started the process towards our 2023 update, and we will take the assessments by Tan and colleagues on board to continue improving our guidelines.

(1) Tan MKH, Goodall R, Hughes W, et al. A Methodological Assessment of Diabetic Foot Syndrome Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg* 2020 Jul 4.

