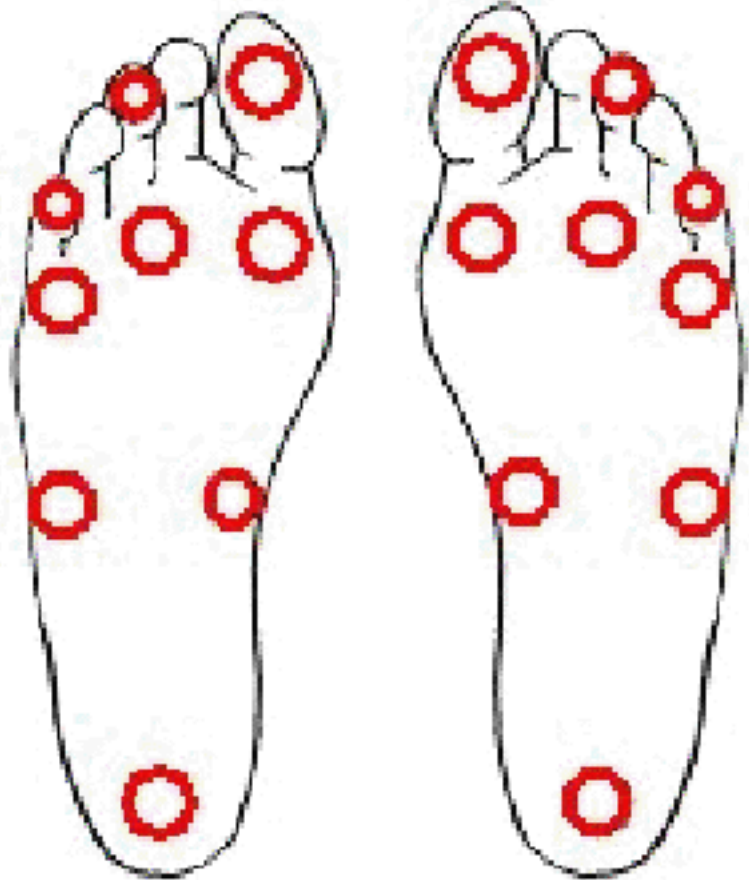


# Screening for Loss of Protective Sensation

## Filament Application Instructions:

1. Show the filament to the patient and touch it to his/her hand or arm so that he/she know it does not hurt.
2. Use the monofilament to test sensation at the indicated sites on each foot as shown. Apply the filament along the perimeter of and NOT on an ulcer, callous, scar, or necrotic tissue.
3. Hold the filament perpendicular to the skin and use a smooth motion when testing. Use a 3 step sequence that includes: 1. Touch the skin, 2. Bend the filament, and 3. Lift from the skin.



Do not use rapid movement.  
The approach, skin contact, and departure of the filament should be approximately 1.5 seconds duration.

4. Ask the patient to respond “yes” when the filament is felt (their eyes should be closed or they should be looking up at the ceiling). If the patient does not respond when you touch a given point on the foot, continue to another site.  
When you have completed the sequence, REPEAT the area(s) where the patient did not indicate feeling the filament.
5. Use the filament in a random sequence.
6. On the form, indicate with a minus sign, ( - ) the areas where the patient did not respond to the filament. **LOSS OF PROTECTIVE SENSATION AT ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT SITES INDICATES A FOOT IS AT HIGH RISK.**
7. If you wish to clean the filament, use sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) 1:10 solution or follow the infection control disinfecting guidelines in your facility.