Table 2

Initial investigations in nephrotic syndrome

Investigation	Rationale
Urinary ACR or PCR (see table 1)	Confirm diagnosis
Serum albumin	Confirm diagnosis
U&E	Assess renal function
Serum lipid profile	Hyperlipidaemia is a common feature
HbA_{1c}	Assess for cause: diabetes mellitus
Double-stranded DNA antibodies	Assess for cause: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
Hepatitis B and C serology	Associated with membranous nephropathy and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)
HIV serology	Associated with FSGS
Immunoglobulins and protein electrophoresis Serum free light chains Urine Bence Jones protein	Assess for cause: amyloidosis or multiple myeloma
Complement profile: C3 and C4	Assess for cause: SLE or membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis