Box 2

Summary of NICE recommendations on revascularisation

- Angioplasty should be offered only when:
  - advice on the benefits of modifying risk factors has been reinforced and
  - a supervised exercise programme has not led to a satisfactory improvement in symptoms and
  - imaging has confirmed that angioplasty is suitable
- Primary stent placement should be offered to patients with intermittent claudication caused by complete aortoiliac occlusion (rather than stenosis) but not to patients with femoropopliteal disease. Bare metal stents should be used
- Bypass surgery should only be offered to patients with severe lifestyle-limiting intermittent claudication when angioplasty has been unsuccessful or is unsuitable and imaging has confirmed that it is appropriate. An autologous vein should be used, whenever possible, for patients having infrainguinal bypass surgery
- Comorbidities, disease pattern, availability of a vein, and patient preference should be taken into consideration