Recognising plagiarism (exercise)

**Original text** (Anderson, 2007):

There is debate about how often Doppler assessment should be carried out. Guidelines currently recommend every three months post-ulcer healing (Royal College of Nursing (RCN), 2006); however, this is burdensome and probably not necessary for many patients (Pankhurst, 2004). Therefore, practitioners should refer to local guidelines.

**Example 1** – is this plagiarism?

There is debate about how often Doppler assessment should be carried out. Guidelines currently recommend every three months post-ulcer healing (RCN, 2006). However, this is burdensome and probably not necessary for many patients (Pankhurst, 2004). Therefore, practitioners should refer to local guidelines.

**Example 2** – is this plagiarism?

There is discussion about how often Doppler assessment should be done. Guidelines recommend every three months post-ulcer healing (RCN, 2006) but this is probably not necessary for many patients (Pankhurst, 2004). Therefore, health professionals should refer to local guidelines.

**Example 3** – is this plagiarism?

Practitioners may find Doppler assessment every three months difficult to achieve and the decision whether or not to do this may depend on the needs of the patient and local guidance (Anderson, 2007).
Recognising plagiarism (answers)

**Original text** (Anderson, 2007)

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_This is plagiarism. It gives the impression that these are the words of the writer. In addition, the writer is also claiming to have read the papers cited in the text. To correct this, the text should be put in quotation marks and the reference given with the page number of the original. However, directly quoting does not demonstrate understanding._

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**Example 2** – is this plagiarism?

There is discussion about how often Doppler assessment should be done. Guidelines recommend every three months post-ulcer healing (RCN, 2006) but this is probably not necessary for many patients (Pankhurst, 2004). Therefore, health professionals should refer to local guidelines.

_This is plagiarism. It is not enough just to change some of the words; the original source of the writing should be cited. This is an example of poor writing technique. The writer is repeating what was written originally and is not demonstrating any understanding of the text or how the ideas should be applied in practice._

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**Example 3** – is this plagiarism?

Practitioners may find Doppler assessment every three months difficult to achieve and the decision whether or not to do this may depend on the needs of the patient and local guidance (Anderson, 2007).

_This is not plagiarism. The writer has taken an idea and put it into his or her own words, demonstrating understanding of the risk in assessment and a good referencing technique._

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