



Find out more

Foot Health Services
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If you would like this publication in large print, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please contact us on 01603 697492 and we will do our best to help.

You can receive help with queries about NCH&C services from **Patient Advice and Liaison Service**

Telephone: 0800 088 4449
Email: pals@nchc.nhs.uk
(Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)



Discharge from Foot Health Services

Information for patients

Why have I been discharged?

NHS Podiatry services are available to patients with

- moderate to severe foot problems requiring professional treatment and
- a medical condition that puts the feet at high risk of foot complications.

We are unable to provide treatment for patients with low clinical need i.e. those who do not have medical conditions that impact on foot health and / or with minor foot problems, including social nail care.

Alternatively, you may have been discharged because

- the foot problem you were referred for has resolved
- you have completed a course of treatment, but more treatment from us will not completely resolve your foot problem
- you have been referred on to another service / department

I need regular foot care – what can I do?

Your Podiatrist has given you advice on how you can care for your feet yourself. Alternatively, you may ask a family member or carer to do this for you.

If you prefer, there are private Podiatrists that offer treatment in clinics or that will visit you at home. Lists of these can be found in the yellow pages under 'Podiatrists' or by searching on www.scpod.org and clicking on 'find a podiatrist'.

How do I know my private Podiatrist is qualified?

The title of 'Chiropodist' and 'Podiatrist' is legally protected – this means that only those who have undergone rigorous professional training (to degree level) are allowed to call themselves Chiropodists or Podiatrists. We strongly advise you to make sure that your practitioner is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

This organisation regulates Podiatrists and Chiropodists in the UK and was set up to protect the public. The HCPC only register professionals who meet high standards for their training, professional skills and behaviour.

Whether they work privately or in the NHS, Podiatrists and Chiropodists must be HCPC registered so you can be sure

- They are genuine
- They meet national standards
- You are protected.

You can check that your Podiatrist is HCPC registered by visiting www.hcpc-uk.org and clicking 'check the register'.

What happens if my feet get worse or I develop a new problem?

If things change – either with your general health, or your foot problem comes back or gets worse – then go to your GP to discuss a new referral to Foot Health Services.

We will then reassess your foot condition, general foot health and take a full medical history to assess whether we can offer you further treatment.