

This leaflet explains the role of the Podiatry Service which covers the Gwent county boroughs.



What is Podiatry?

'The Profession of podiatry has developed from its origins in chiropody to become a medical speciality dealing with the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the lower limb'. (Society of Chiropodists & Podiatrist 2002)

What can I expect from the Podiatry Service?

The Podiatry service is a speciality dealing with the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of foot and lower limb disorders. The service provides:-

- Foot care based on clinical need
- Rapid access to foot ulcer clinics
- Minor surgery for foot and nail conditions
- Treatment programmes for people with lower limb disorders
- Assessment of gait / walking problems
- Prescription and manufacture of orthotics (special insoles)
- Continual monitoring and reassessment to ensure appropriate foot care
- Advice on foot care / Patient empowerment foot health education sessions

How do I access the Podiatry Service?

You can access the Podiatry service by asking your GP, Practice Nurse or other Healthcare professional to refer you for an assessment.

The Podiatry service aims to contact patients within 14 weeks of referral. High risk patients who have medical conditions that may leave them susceptible to infection, ulceration or amputation will be given priority access to the service.

All referrals to the service are assessed depending on your medical and podiatric need. You may be offered a clinic assessment appointment and / or invited to a Patient Empowerment foot health education session.

What are Patient Empowerment Education Sessions?

Not all foot conditions require medical treatment. Education sessions are run by Podiatrists who will show you and / or your carer how to self-manage your foot condition. If you are offered education sessions an invitation to attend will be sent to you. When you have attended the education sessions you will be discharged from the service to manage you own foot health needs.

What happens at Clinic Assessment?

If you are offered a clinic assessment, an appointment will be made for you at a local clinic. At this appointment the podiatrist will assess your foot health needs, taking a full medical history. **It is very important that you bring a full list of your current medication with you.** You may be given treatment and foot and health education. If follow-up treatment is needed, packages of care will be discussed, however the assessment appointment may resolve your foot problem/s and you will then be discharged with guidance to manage your own foot health needs.

Contact Us

We hope you find this leaflet useful. If you need further information about the Podiatry service or would like to make any comments or suggestions, please contact:-



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Notes

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**