

**THE TIER 2 SERVICE MESSAGE OF THE MONTH FOR GPs
APRIL 2013**

COMMUNITY PODIATRY SERVICE

Service Summary

The community-based podiatry service in Central Manchester delivers care across Central Manchester for adults and children with painful foot conditions or a medical condition affecting their feet. In order to qualify as an Allied Health Professional, podiatrists undertake a 3-year undergraduate degree and then register with the (HCPC) Health and Care Professions Council. Upon qualification, podiatrists can administer local anaesthesia for nail surgery and electro-surgery. There is opportunity to undertake extended-scope training in specialist areas such as podiatric surgery, musculoskeletal assessment and treatment, and care of the diabetic foot. Independent prescribing has been granted for physiotherapy and podiatry.

Who is appropriate for Podiatry treatment?

A referral to the podiatry service is appropriate for patients who suffer with foot pain or who have a medical condition that puts their feet at risk. All referrals are triaged and prioritised as follows (see table below). Please note that there is a very limited service for strictly housebound patients and that the waiting list can be very long.

The table below lists common problems seen and priority times given however this list is not exhaustive.

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| <p>High priority (Seen within 1-7 days)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foot ulceration * • Infected foot • Infected ingrowing toenail • Long nails due to neglect (impairing mobility or piercing skin) <p>* diabetic patients with an active foot ulcer can be referred urgently to Professor Andrew Boulton at Manchester Diabetes Centre. An MDT outpatient foot ulcer clinic is held every Friday morning at the Foot Hospital.</p> |
| <p>Medium priority (Seen within 4 weeks)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involuted nails in neuropathic and ischaemic patients • Callus either causing pain or present in neuropathic patients |
| <p>Low Priority (Seen within 3 months)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thickened and twisted nails (onychogryphotic) • Painful corns and callus • Musculoskeletal conditions (e.g. Achilles tendonitis) |

What is not appropriate for Podiatry?

- Non-pathological nails
- Fungal nail infection, unless thickened or painful
- Footwear related corns and calluses (we will see to advise)
- Verrucae/plantar warts (we will see to advise)
- Dry and cracked heels unless neuropathic or ischaemic

- Asymptomatic flat feet
- Patients who can self care for their feet

What happens at the initial appointment?

At the first appointment the patient will be assessed, and a care plan will be discussed and agreed. This may involve advice and discharge or a course of treatment over several appointments. Treatment objectives will be identified.

What happens after the appointment?

With high-priority patients, follow-up appointments will be arranged as needed. In medium and low-priority patients are asked to contact the service as advised.

How do you access the Podiatry service?

General practitioners and allied health professionals can refer patients using the referral form **(attached to this Message of the Month)** but please attach any relevant medical information. The completed form should be sent to the Foot Hospital at Rusholme Health Centre (details on the form). Alternatively, patients can self-refer by completing the same form.

Waiting Times

Waiting times vary but urgent patients will be seen within 7 days.

Service Hours

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm, clinics run between 9am to 4pm.

Contact information

Manchester Foot Hospital
Rusholme Health Centre
Walmer Street
Rusholme
Manchester
M14 5NB

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Next month's MoM: common foot problems.