



Find out more

Foot Health Services
Tel: 01603 216021

Norwich Community Hospital
Bowthorpe Road
Norwich
Norfolk
NR2 3TU

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)



Finding Footcare

Information for patients

Why can't I have NHS footcare?

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.

The NHS is 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.

I need regular foot care – what can I do?

Your Doctor or Nurse can give 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.

Our website has links to organisations that can advise on foot complaints, including a list of our own leaflets on specific foot conditions. Find them at www.norfolkcommunityhealthandcare.nhs.uk. Under the A-Z of services, click on 'P' and find Community Podiatry.

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'.

You can also call the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists to find a Podiatrist in your area on 020 7234 8620

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 referral to Foot Health Services.