

If a health professional has given you a specific phone number to call when you are concerned about your condition, continue to use that number.

Further information about the service and how to manage a range of foot health problems yourself, can also be found on our website: www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk/project/podiatry

This information is also available for posting to your address in large print, other formats and other languages – please contact us directly on 01752 434855 with your requirement and we will be happy to send this to your home address.

Future Foot Health Issues

If you develop foot or lower limb health problems in the future you should contact your GP or Practice Nurse to discuss it with them and to see if a further referral to our service is appropriate. As a specialist NHS service we have to focus on people with complex and severe needs, so a referral may not always be appropriate. If it is appropriate, they will contact us for you and your needs will be assessed based on the new referral we receive.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this leaflet, please contact Podiatry Services

Contact Details

Podiatry Services
Beauchamp Centre
Mount Gould Hospital
200 Mount Gould Road
Plymouth
PL4 7QD

Tel: 01752 434855 **Email:** livewell.podiatrypatients@nhs.net

www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk

Podiatry Services Patient Information Leaflet



Accessing Podiatry Providers Other Than Through the NHS

(March 2023)

**Advice and Information about Accessing Podiatry and
Foot Care Services Other Than From the NHS**

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

Alternative Sources of Routine Foot Care

If you wish to use an alternative care provider because you cannot care for your feet or because you have ongoing simple foot problems that the NHS cannot locally provide help with, the following information may be useful.

Non-NHS Podiatry Providers

If you would prefer to find an alternative care provider, it is highly recommended that you only see a **HCPC Registered Podiatrist** (still sometimes called a Chiropodist). The law protects the titles Podiatrist and Chiropodist via the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To easily search for a local registered Podiatrist you can visit:

www.rcpod.org.uk

Simply enter your post code and a range of HCPC providers will be displayed for you to consider. Alternately you can call 020 7234 8620 to find a HCPC registered Podiatrist in a similar way in your local area stating your postcode.

How to Check if a Podiatrist or Chiropodist is HCPC Registered

- HCPC registered health professionals will have the letters HCPC registered in their title or on their advert
- You can check online at: www.hcpc-uk.org
- Telephone the HCPC Registration Department on 0845 300 6184

Other people who may be able to provide simple foot care in your area call themselves Foot Health Practitioners or Foot Care Therapists. They are not governed by the HCPC and therefore do not have to comply with the same standards of training and professional and personal conduct required by the HCPC.

Financial Assistance

If you need assistance with managing your independence and benefits entitlement and would like to find out if you are eligible

Citizen's Advice Bureau:

- www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- 0800 1448 444 - Help to Claim (Mon to Fri 8am-6pm)

GOV.UK:

- www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

Advice and Information

There is free and comprehensive advice covering a range of conditions available by visiting the NHS at www.nhs.uk. This includes basic foot care, support for skin conditions and a range of exercise advice to help with muscular rehabilitation of lower limbs.

Diabetes UK have a website dedicated to offering help and advice on all conditions and complications arising from diabetes. You can find their foot health information using this link:

www.diabetes.org.uk/guide-to-diabetes/complications/feet

You can use the NHS111 service if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation. Call 111 if:

- you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency
- you think you need to go to A&E or need another NHS urgent care service
- you don't know who to call or you don't have a GP to call
- you need health information or reassurance about what to do next

For less urgent health needs, contact your GP or local pharmacist in the usual way.