

What is Podiatry?

Podiatrists are professionals trained in the diagnosis and management of problems with the feet and lower limbs.

Although podiatrists focus on the feet, these problems are often related to problems elsewhere in the body, such as diabetes.

The primary aim of the department is to identify and prevent risks of foot ulceration and amputation. The Podiatry department runs wound care clinics regularly.

What does a foot check involve?

- General health review
- Collect an up to date medication list
- Check blood supply to feet
- Check nerve supply to feet
- Check nails and skin on feet and legs
- Identify foot deformities or pressure areas on your feet
- Assess footwear
- Wound assessments, if applicable

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Podiatry



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Podiatry at SHDH

The Podiatry Department is involved in most areas of the hospital—Acute and Subacute wards, Jacaranda and Logan Lodge. We also see patients in the Allied Health Outpatients Clinic. People of all ages, from young infants to the elderly, with a wide variety of ailments, can benefit from Podiatry.

Primary focus of SHDH Podiatry

Partial or complete lower limb loss is often avoidable. Podiatry aims to identify and prevent risks related to the development of foot wounds.

High risk feet

Feet can be at a higher risk of wounds or amputations in the presence of:

- Poor circulation
- Loss of protective sensation (feeling)
- Foot deformities or pressure areas
- A history of wounds or amputations
- Kidney disease

Podiatry services

Wound clinic

Runs regularly, and provides care to people who have chronic foot or leg wounds.

Tissue Viability clinic

Runs every Wednesday morning with District Nursing Services, to care for joint clients.

Paediatrics clinic

Runs monthly, to assess and manage conditions affecting children's feet and legs.

Mixed clinic

For a variety of foot conditions, such as:

- Management of nail conditions such as ingrown toenails, including nail surgery
- Management of pressure lesions such as corns and calluses
- If you have diabetes, for a foot check every year
- When foot pain interferes with life—for assessment, treatment and advice

Accessing Podiatry

A doctor's referral is NOT required to use the service. All members of the public can self refer to the Podiatry Service for a foot check. After the Podiatrist has finished their assessment, they will discuss with you options for how to best manage your foot problems.

How it works

When you first contact the Podiatry Department for an appointment you will be asked to fill out a form with information about your general health and your foot problems. Using this information, the Podiatrist will assign a priority, which is based on government priority tools. It is important that you give as much information as possible to enable us to assign a correct category.

Reception staff will notify you when an appointment becomes available.

After the initial consultation the Podiatrist will advise you if we can provide you with ongoing care. We do not cut nails of people with healthy feet.