

Diabetic Foot Screening Policy

This policy describes the process of assessing a patient with diabetes for foot complications, assigning appropriate risk classification and implementing.

| | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| Key Words: | Diabetic Foot Assessment Screening Ulcer Foot Emergency | |
| Version: | 6.1 | |
| Adopted by: | Trust Policy Committee | |
| Date this version was adopted: | 17 November 2020 | |
| Name of Author: | Helen Parberry/Catherine Holland | |
| Name of responsible Committee: | Nutrition and Pressure Ulcers Group | |
| Please state if there is a reason for not publishing on website: | n/a | |
| Date issued for publication: | November 2020 | |
| Review date: | June 2023 | |
| Expiry date: | 30 June 2024 | |
| Target audience: | All LPT staff involved in screening for Diabetic Foot Complications and involved in the care of the Diabetic Foot | |
| Type of Policy | Clinical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Non Clinical |
| Which Relevant CQC Fundamental Standards? | Person centred care, dignity and respect, safety, good governance, care and treatment in safe way. | |

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Version Control and Summary of Changes

| Version number | Date | Comments (description change and amendments) |
|----------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 17/02/2014 | |
| 2 | 26/05/2016 | Decrease in number of assessments required to be carried out per year to maintain competence. Statement added re Mental capacity and best interest decisions |
| 3 | April 2018 | Policy reviewed –no major changes |
| 4 | June 2019 | Policy reviewed. Changes made in line with local pathways. |
| 5 | Sept 2019 | References updated Touch toes test included to prevent the need for equipment required to establish neuropathy. Appendix 15 removed – already covered with pathways |
| 6 | October 2020 | Appendix 16 and 17 removed. Designed for Rio, no longer in use. |
| 6.1 | December 2023 | Ext agreed at PSIG |

For further information contact:

Podiatry Call Centre on 0116 2255118 or LLR.Podiatry@nhs.net

Equality Statement

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) aims to design and implement policy documents that meet the diverse needs of our service, population and workforce, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others.

It takes into account the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and promotes equal opportunities for all.

This document has been assessed to ensure that no one receives less favourable treatment on the protected characteristics of their age, disability, sex (gender), gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity.

In carrying out its functions, LPT must have due regard to the different needs of different protected equality groups in their area.

This applies to all the activities for which LPT is responsible, including policy development and review.

Due Regard

The Trusts commitment to equality means that this policy has been screened in relation to paying due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

A due regard review found the activity outlined in the document to be equality neutral because implementation of this policy should not have a negative impact on any protected characteristics. It simply promotes and reinforces good clinical practice.

Definitions that apply to this Policy

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Diabetic Foot Assessment | A foot screen to determine the risk status of developing a diabetic foot complication. This does not involve a full medical examination and routine bloods. |
| Foot ulceration | A patient with diabetes who has an open wound on their foot |
| Charcot foot | A foot that presents as hot, swollen and red either with or without an open wound. Commonly the arch is flattened with a 'rocker' shape to the foot due to pathological fractures / bony changes associated with neuropathy |
| Neuropathy | Interruption of nerve function |
| Peripheral arterial disease | Synonymous with peripheral vascular disease |
| Peripheral vascular disease | Any abnormal condition that affects the blood vessels outside the heart and lymphatic vessels |
| Ipswich Touch Toes Test | Simple, quick and reliable test that requires no special equipment to establish if a patient at risk of diabetic foot ulceration |

1.0. Purpose of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure that standards of care and referral strategies for patients with diabetes are known and standardised across the trust in accordance with best practice. To effect implementation of NICE guidance NG19 Diabetic Foot Problems: Prevention and Management (2015; updated 2016) and to ensure all patients with Diabetes in the care of LPT are screened for complications in a timely manner, by a suitably competent practitioner, their risk status identified and appropriate intervention / action taken or referrals made.

An LLR peer review of the diabetic foot pathway has been completed. Stake holders are working on an action plan. While the work continues it is not envisaged that this will involve any changes to the screening policy.

2.0. Summary and Key Points

Diabetic foot complications are the largest single reason for hospital admissions among the diabetic population in the UK. It has the potential for devastating complications which

are potentially avoidable.

It is therefore essential that standards of care and referral procedures for patients with diabetes are standardised across the trust in accordance with best practice.

The training which underpins the policy will ensure all patients with diabetes under the care of LPT will be screened for foot complications in a timely manner by a trained practitioner and their risk status identified with appropriate interventions or referrals actioned.

Classification of risk status of diabetes patients will be in accordance with NICE guidance NG19 Diabetic Foot Problems: Prevention and Management (2015; updated 2016)

3.0 Introduction

Foot disease is a devastating, but potentially avoidable, complication of diabetes. Estimations are that every 30 seconds a lower limb is lost due to diabetes-related amputation somewhere in the world (Boulton et al 2005). The annual spend for diabetic foot ulceration and amputation is estimated to be just under one billion pounds, most of which is spent in primary, community and outpatient settings (Kerr 2017).

The National Diabetes Foot Audit has demonstrated that delayed referral has been associated with an increased risk of amputation and in June 2017 NHS England published the “Right care pathway” for Diabetes with seven key areas identified to improve care of people with diabetes. One of the key areas identified was a reduction of major amputations (above or below the knee) recommending that there is a triage to specialist services (NHS England)

4.0 Policy Requirements

NICE Classification – Prevention and Management of Foot Problems

Diabetic patients are classified to help predict diabetic foot complications and provide appropriate, tailored education.

| NICE CLASSIFICATION | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Low Risk | Moderate | High Risk | Foot Emergency / Active Foot Ulcer |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------|
| Palpable pulses | Neuropathy <i>or</i> Absent pulses <i>or</i> | Neuropathy <i>or</i> Absent pulses <i>plus</i> | New ulceration / Skin Breach |
| Normal sensation | Other risk factor e.g. foot pathology / deformity | Deformity <i>or</i> Skin changes <i>or</i> | Swelling |
| No foot Pathology / deformity | | Previous ulcer / amputation | Discolouration |
| No Peripheral Vascular / Arterial Disease | | Renal Replacement | Acute Charcot foot |
| | | | Cellulitis |
| | | | Necrosis |
| | | | Gangrene |

4.1 Diabetic Foot Screening

Successful assessment and classification will inform the management strategy and is aimed at reducing the incidence of foot ulcers. Foot screening has been shown to lower amputation rates (Ang 2017).

Diabetic patients should be checked for a diabetic foot emergency as soon as possible on admission but within 24 hours. If one is found then follow the diabetic active foot pathway urgently ([Appendix 12](#)) As soon as practically possible carry out a diabetic foot screen.

If the patient does not have a diabetic foot emergency continue with the following within 72 hours of admission

4.2 Training and competency

- Screening for foot complications must only be carried out by an appropriately trained and deemed competent practitioner. As this is a technical based task, the training is suitable for Health Care Assistants through to Medics.
- Initial training for staff in AMH/LD/FYPC/CHS required to screen for diabetic foot disease will be provided by the Podiatry Service. Please contact LLR.Podiatry@nhs.net for details on the next available courses. The LPT Podiatry Service provides regular courses on assessment and management of the diabetic foot, entitled – ‘Care of the Diabetic Foot’. This course is cross referenced with Skills 4 Health, includes a practical session and provides competency assessment and certification.
- It is recommended that staff involved in DFAs attend an annual refresher and full training course every 3 years (provided by LPT Podiatry Services details as above).
- To maintain competency a practitioner should be carrying out frequent foot assessments. It is also recommended competency status be monitored and recorded within staff members appraisal.
- Diabetic Foot screening should be carried out on all patients with diabetes annually, on admission or more frequently dependent on risks; and this should be recorded in the patient’s electronic record.

4.3 Screening Equipment

Where possible, all LPT wards should screen diabetic patients for foot complications within 72 hours of admission if a foot emergency has not already been identified. If they are unable to perform an assessment within the expected time frame it is recommended a note detailing the reason why should be entered in the patient’s electronic record.

It is recommended that a simple assessment must comprise of at least:

- Tests for Neuropathy, as a minimum –

- 10g Monofilament (large fibre) OR
- Touch the toes test. No equipment required.
- Tests for impaired circulation, as a minimum –
 - Testing for pulses (palpation or doppler use)
 - Observing for colour changes, vulnerability of skin / tissue, hair loss and changes to nails
 - Checking for temperature gradient
- Observing for foot deformity and / or pathology
- If any abnormalities are found it is recommended these findings are communicated to the GP on discharge. The above regime will be sufficient in most cases, allowing appropriate classification and follow on action and / or indicating need for further in depth and targeted testing,

e.g. if tests failed or are inconclusive.

For patients exhibiting an inability to appropriately respond to neurological tests e.g. due to ill health or disability, it is to be considered that the foot is high risk

4.4 The Diabetic Foot Assessment / Screening Tool

The recommended Diabetic Foot Assessment Tool ([Appendix 4](#)) provides a standard approach to the assessment process and must be used by all LPT staff involved in diabetic foot screening. This tool is to be made available electronically and available on request

The Tool is structured to be user friendly and enables the practitioner to assess the patients' 'risk' status in relation to their feet.

5.0 Mental Capacity and Best Interest Decisions

Where there is doubt if a patient lacks mental capacity to agree to assessment and treatment, an assessment of their capacity under the Mental Capacity Act (2005) should be completed. This is a “decision-specific” test and no one can be regarded as lacking capacity to make decisions in general. If the person is deemed to lack capacity then a decision in the person’s best interest must be made. The Act provides a checklist of factors that decision-makers must work through in deciding what is in a person’s best interests. Also, carers and family members have a right to be consulted.

- In the event that the patient’s capacity to consent is in doubt, clinical staff must ensure that a mental capacity assessment is completed and recorded. Someone with an impairment of or a disturbance in the functioning of the mind or brain is thought to lack the mental capacity to give informed consent if they cannot do one of the following;
 - Understand information about the decision
 - Remember that information
 - Use the information to make the decision
 - Communicate the decision

- Adhere to the policy and take appropriate action as required.
- Feedback to their managers the need for any specific training or update training as they deem relevant / required. All staff should be aware of how this policy impacts on their practice and be able to follow the specified requirements set out.

6.0. Process Chart

The foot screening tool should accompany any referral made as a result of the assessment

Provision of care and thus appropriate referral should be as follows, according to NICE:

| NICE Classification | Referral to | Surveillance Interval (in patient only) | Education Leaflets |
|---|--|--|--|
| Low Risk | No referral required | Annually (min) Or change in status | Low risk leaflet Appendix 9 |
| Moderate Risk – No foot Pathology | No referral required . | 3-6 Monthly Or change in status | Moderate and High risk leaflets Appendix 8/ Appendix 7 |
| Moderate Risk– with Foot Pathology | Podiatry – Referral Refer using electronic form via www.leicpart.nhs.uk | | |
| High Risk | Podiatry – Referral as above providing as much information as possible for podiatry to triage accordingly | 1-3 Monthly Or change in status | Appendix 7 |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p>Foot Emergency / Active foot Ulceration</p> | <p>Follow Diabetic active foot pathway</p> <p>For those patients who are systemically unwell e.g. signs and symptoms of systemic sepsis, critical limb ischaemia admit to secondary care via the Vascular Reg On Call 07415559612 or UHL switchboard</p> <p>For active ulcers with no palpable foot pulses refer to Vascular Assess VascularValSreferral@uhl-tr.Nhs.Uk</p> <p>0116 2588508/2588506</p> <p>For patient able to attend the Diabetic Foot Clinic refer via electronic referral to diabetesfootclinic@uhl-tr.nhs.uk</p> <p>0116 2502876/01162588249</p> <p>For those patients not requiring admission and unable/unwilling to attend the Diabetic Foot Clinic refer urgently to Podiatry LLR.podiatry@nhs.net</p> <p>0116 0116 2255105/2255118</p> <p>Consider antibiotic regime following the Diabetic foot infections antimicrobial guidelines</p> <p>And</p> <p>Protect the foot (pressure relief)</p> | <p>Intensive as required</p> | <p>Appendix 12</p> |
|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|

6.1 Emergency Referral (Podiatry Fast Access)

In addition to the services offered by UHL (MDFT UHL Diabetic Foot Clinic) The LPT Podiatry Service runs a emergency fast access clinics across City and County. These are drop in clinics Monday-Friday which patients can attend if they have any concerns that require urgent attention or unable to attend the MDFT. Please complete a podiatry application form and give details of the degree of urgency and indicate if able to attend clinic.

Diabetic Foot Emergency HOTLINE 0116 2255105

The Hotline (Staff only), operating Mon – Fri 8am – 6pm, will be given priority over other calls within the Podiatry Appointments Booking Centre

The fast access will provide an assessment / triage, first line emergency care e.g. provision of antibiotics, immediate treatment and off-loading in order to stabilise the patient. On-going care will be arranged as appropriate.

7.0 Duties within the Organisation

7.1 The Trust Board has a legal responsibility for Trust policies and for ensuring that they are carried out effectively.

7.2 Trust Board Sub-committees have the responsibility for ratifying policies and protocols.

7.3 Divisional Directors and Heads of Service are responsible for:

- Ensuring Team managers / leads are given clear instruction about arrangements for implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibility to adhere to the policy.
- Ensuring appropriate resources and mechanisms are in place to facilitate adherence

7.4 Managers and Team Leaders are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the policy is understood and followed as appropriate by each relevant member of staff.
- Policy information is shared with all relevant new staff on induction.
- Ensuring staff know how and where to access most current version of this policy.
- Ensuring staff adhere to the policy and carry out relevant audits to measure

- compliance.
- Ensuring any recommended training is undertaken as specified in the policy

7.5 Responsibility of Staff

All staff (including seconded staff, agency and bank staff) should be aware of their individual responsibility to:

Ensure that consent has been sought and obtained before any care, intervention or treatment described in this policy is delivered. Consent can be given orally and/ or in writing. Someone could also give non-verbal consent as long as they understand the treatment or care about to take place. Consent must be voluntary and informed and the person consenting must have the capacity to make the decision.

All staff are responsible for documenting the above in the patients electronic record.

8.0 Training needs

There is a need for training identified within this policy. In accordance with the classification of training outlined in the Trust Learning and Development Strategy this training has been identified as role development training.

Dates for training will be provided on a demand basis. Service managers should contact the Podiatry Service to request training dates by emailing LLR.Podiatry@nhs.net All training packages will be designed by the Podiatry service to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach

The governance group responsible for monitoring the training is the Clinical Effectiveness Group

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Training Required | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO |
| Training topic: | Diabetes Foot Screening | |
| Type of training: (see study leave policy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory (must be on mandatory training register) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role specific <input type="checkbox"/> Personal development | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Division(s) to which the training is applicable: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Mental Health & Learning Disability Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Health Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabling Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Families Young People Children <input type="checkbox"/> Hosted Services |
| Staff groups who require the training: | All clinical staff within LPT in patient setting who have hands on contact with patients. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Regularity of Update requirement: | Every 3 years |
| Who is responsible for delivery of this training? | Podiatry Service |
| Have resources been identified? | Yes; staff from areas above |
| Has a training plan been agreed? | Podiatry will provide 4 4 hour sessions for staff training. Staff will only need to attend 1 4 hour session. |
| Where will completion of this training be recorded? | <input type="checkbox"/> ULearn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) Trust learning Management System |
| How is this training going to be monitored? | Initial training figures will be provided to inpatient matrons and clinical governance leads. Individual areas will be responsible for ensuring they have sufficient trained staff |

9.0 Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness

Where monitoring identifies any shortfall in compliance with policy and requirements for assessments; the group responsible for the Policy (as identified on the policy cover) shall be responsible for developing and monitoring any action plans to ensure future compliance

| Ref | Minimum Requirements | Evidence for Self-assessment | Process for Monitoring | Responsible Individual / Group | Frequency of monitoring |
|-----|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4.2 | Maintain competency in assessment of diabetic foot by carrying out frequent assessments | Section 4.2 | To be recorded as supervision | staff and line managers | ongoing |

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 4.2 | Every Diabetic patient should be checked for a diabetic foot emergency as soon as possible or within 24 hours on admission and correct pathway followed | Section 4.2 | Random sample of patient records | Each team/ward/area/division to complete | 2 yearly as policy reviewed or sooner if indicated |
| 4.3 | Every diabetic patient admitted should have a screen conducted within 72 hours of being admitted | Section 4.3 | Random sample of patient records | Each team/ward/area/division to complete | 2 yearly as policy reviewed or sooner if indicated |

10.0 Standards/Performance Indicators

| TARGET/STANDARDS | KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR |
|---|--|
| <p>CQC Fundamental Standards Regulation 9 Person Centred Care, Regulation 10 Dignity and Respect Regulation 11 Need for consent Regulation 12 Safe Care and Treatment Regulation 13 Safeguarding service users from abuse and improper treatment Regulation 15 Premises and Equipment Regulation 16 Receiving and Acting on Complaints Regulation 17 Good Governance Regulation 18 staffing, Regulation 19 Fit and Proper persons employed</p> | <p>For patients classified as “Routine” an initial Appointment will be provided with the Podiatry service within 4 weeks.</p> <p>Patients classified as “Urgent” will be provided with an appointment within 5 working days.</p> <p>Diabetic Patients will have a foot screen at least annually or more frequently dependant on risk factors</p> <p>A diabetic foot screen will be carried out within 72 hours of admittance</p> |
| <p>NICE Guidance</p> <p>NG19 Diabetic Foot Problems; Prevention and Management (2015, updated 2016)</p> | |

11.0 References and Bibliography

This policy was drafted with reference to the following:

Ang GY et al (2017). Effectiveness of Diabetes Foot Screening in Primary Care in Preventing Lower Extremity Amputations. *Annals of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore* [01 Nov 2017, 46(11):417-423]

Cavanagh et al (2005) in McIntosh C (2007) Diabetic foot ulcers; what is best practice in the UK. *Wound Essentials* (2): 162-170

Diabetes UK (2009) Putting feet first; commissioning specialist services for the management and prevention of diabetic foot disease in hospitals

Diabetes UK

DoH (2001) The National Service Framework for Diabetes. DoH, London

Edmonds M (2008) A natural history and framework for managing diabetic foot ulcers. *British Journal of Nursing Tissue Viability* supplement 17 (11): 20-30

Fletcher J (2006) Full nursing assessment of patients at risk of diabetic foot ulcers. *British Journal of Nursing Tissue Viability supplement* 15 (15): 18-22

Frykberg et al (2006) in McIntosh C (2007) Diabetic foot ulcers; what is best practice in the UK. *Wound Essentials* (2): 162-170

Kerr M (2017) Improving footcare for people with diabetes and saving money – an economic study in England. Diabetes UK.
www.diabetes.org.uk/Professionals/Resources/shared-practice/Footcare.

Llorente D, Urrutia V (2006) Diabetes, psychiatric disorders and the metabolic effects of antipsychotic medications. *American Diabetes Association Clinical Diabetes* 24(1) 18-24

Mackie S (2006) Developing an education package on diabetic foot disease. *Wound Care* (Dec 06): S6-14

Mackin P, Bishop D, Watkinson H, Gallagher P, Ferrier N (2007) Metabolic disease and cardiovascular risk in people treated with antipsychotics in the community. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 191: 23-29

McIntosh C (2007) Skin and nail conditions and the diabetic foot. *Wound Essentials* (2): 173-176

McIntosh C (2007) Diabetic foot ulcers; what is best practice in the UK. *Wound Essentials* (2): 162-170
National Diabetes Support Team (2006) Diabetic Foot Guide. National Diabetes Support Team, Leicester

Nash M (2009) Mental health nurses' diabetes care skills – a training needs analysis. *British Journal of Nursing* 18 (10): 626-634

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2015, updated 2016) Diabetic Foot Problems; Prevention and Management www.nice.org/CG010

NHS England report available at
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare/intel/cfv/pathways/diabetes-pathway/>

Appendix 1 Due Regard Screening Template

| Section 1 | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Name of activity/proposal | | Diabetic Foot Screening | |
| Date Screening commenced | | May 2016 | |
| Directorate / Service carrying out the assessment | | Quality Performance and Planning | |
| Name and role of person undertaking this Due Regard (Equality Analysis) | | Catherine Holland Podiatry Team lead | |
| Give an overview of the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal: | | | |
| AIMS: The aim of this Policy is to provide the necessary knowledge and practical skills to allow staff to screen diabetic patients for foot disease and prevent potential future amputation | | | |
| OBJECTIVES: Diabetic patients to have their feet classified, infection and amputation risks to be minimised by timely and correct intervention | | | |
| PURPOSE: To provide consistent training for staff To screen diabetic patients for foot disease and prevent potential future amputation | | | |
| Section 2 | | | |
| Protected Characteristic | Could the proposal have a positive impact Yes or No | Could the proposal have a negative impact Yes or No | |
| Age | No | No | |
| Disability | No | No | |
| Gender reassignment | No | No | |
| Marriage & Civil Partnership | No | No | |
| Pregnancy & Maternity | No | No | |
| Race | No | No | |
| Religion and Belief | No | No | |
| Sex | No | No | |
| Sexual Orientation | No | No | |
| Other equality groups? | No | No | |
| Section 3 | | | |
| Does this activity propose major changes in terms of scale or significance for LPT? For example, is there a clear indication that, although the proposal is minor it is likely to have a major affect for people from an equality group/s? Please <u>tick</u> appropriate box below | | | |
| Yes | | No | |
| High risk: Complete a full EIA starting - click here to proceed to Part B | | Low risk: Go to Section 4. | |

Section 4

It this proposal is low risk please give evidence or justification for how you reached this decision:

Signed by reviewer/assessor

Catherine Holland

Date**June 2019**

Sign off that this proposal is low risk and does not require a full Equality Analysis

Head of Service Signed**Date****14.09.20**

Appendix 2 The NHS Constitution Checklist

The NHS will provide a universal service for all based on clinical need, not ability to pay. The NHS will provide a comprehensive range of services

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Shape its services around the needs and preferences of individual patients, their families and their carers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Respond to different needs of different sectors of the population | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Work continuously to improve quality services and to minimise errors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Support and value its staff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Work together with others to ensure a seamless service for patients | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Help keep people healthy and work to reduce health inequalities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Respect the confidentiality of individual patients and provide open access to information about services, treatment and performance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Appendix 3 Stakeholders and Consultation

Key individuals involved in developing the document

| Name | Designation |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helen Parberry | Diabetes Specialist Podiatrist |
| Catherine Holland | Podiatry Team Lead |

Circulated to the following individuals for comment

| Name | Designation |
|----------------------|--|
| Anita Kilroy-Findley | Clinical Lead Tissue Viability |
| Lesley Weaving | Diabetes Specialist Podiatrist |
| Tracey Walker | Diabetes Specialist Podiatrist |
| Sarah Latham | Lead Nurse, Community Hospitals |
| Jonny Dexter | Consultant Nurse (Advanced Practitioner) |
| Lynn MacDiarmid | Advanced Nurse Practitioner |
| Rachel Berrington | Diabetes Specialist Nurse Foot Lead |
| | |

Appendix 4 Diabetic Foot Assessment Tool

| Risk Factors | | Comments |
|--|--|----------|
| History of Previous Ulceration / Gangrene / Amputation | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Previous Glycaemic Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | |
| Male Aged Over 50 Years | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Smoker | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Renal Disease | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Living Alone | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Sight Impaired | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Retinopathy | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> | |
| Other (Please State) | | |

Diabetic Foot Assessment

| Personal Details | |
|-------------------|--|
| NHS Number | |
| Patient Surname | |
| Patient Forenames | |
| Date of Birth | |
| GP Name | |
| GP Address | |

| Diabetes | |
|--|---|
| Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Type 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Type 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Date of Diagnosis | |
| Method of Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Insulin <input type="checkbox"/> GLP-1 agonist <input type="checkbox"/> Tablets <input type="checkbox"/> Diet |
| Last HbA1C Test Result (% or mmol/mol) | Date |

Vascular Assessment

| Arterial Assessment | Right Foot | Left Foot |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Dorsalis Pedis (Pulse) - | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Palpable | | |
| Posterior Tibial (Pulse) - Palpable | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Capillary Filling Time (secs) -Hallux | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Temperature Gradient (Tick if normal i.e cooler at digits warming as you move proximally.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Otherwise please state | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Colour | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Atrophic Changes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Digital Hair | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Venous Assessment | Right Foot | Left Foot |
| Varicose Veins | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Previous Deep Vein Thrombosis | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oedema | Right Foot | Left Foot |
| Details | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Doppler | Right Foot | Left Foot |
| Dorsalis Pedis Artery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Posterior Tibial Artery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Popliteal Artery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Femoral Artery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Peroneal Artery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|--|--|
| Any Other Information | |
| Details (Inc Vascular interventions/Previous vascular interventions) | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Neurological Assessment | Right Foot | Left Foot |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Foot Pathology | Comments |
| Skin | |
| Nail | |
| Bone Deformity | |

| Conclusion | |
|--|--|
| Patients Risk Level | <input type="radio"/> Low Risk - Normal sensation / palpable pulses <input type="radio"/> Increased Risk - Neuropathy or absent pulses or other risk factors <input type="radio"/> High Risk - Neuropathy or absent pulses plus deformity or skin changes or previous ulcer <input type="radio"/> Acute - Foot Ulceration - Foot ulceration / suspected charcot osteoarthropathy or other emergency |
| Risk Pathology | <input type="radio"/> Neuropathic <input type="radio"/> Ischaemic <input type="radio"/> Neuro-ischaemic |
| Other Comments | |
| Action plan (Please complete for all patients) | |

| Clinicians Details | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Clinicians Name/Designation | |
| Review Period | |
| Date | |

| Health Education | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Patient Educated On: | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Visual Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Delayed Wound Healing <input type="checkbox"/> Fast Access Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Wound Care <input type="checkbox"/> Glycaemic Control <input type="checkbox"/> Skin / Nail Care <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Footwear - Indoor <input type="checkbox"/> Footwear - Outdoor <input type="checkbox"/> General leaflet given <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Sensation leaflet given <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Circulation leaflet given <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Other, please specify | |

Please Update Medical History and Drug Therapy on Primary

Appendix 5 Diabetic Foot Assessment Guidance Notes

The Diabetic Foot Assessment Tool is divided into eight main sections:

1. Personal details

This section must be completed in full or using a patient identification sticker if available

2. Diabetes

It is recommended that this section also be completed in full on each assessment as:

- It is good practice to remind oneself of the type of diabetes the patient has and the associated risks. Also this may not be known to other practitioners involved in the patients' care e.g. Podiatrists.
- Date of diagnosis will enable the practitioner to gauge risks associated with duration of disease and this information may also not be available to other practitioners involved in the patients' care
- Method of control may have changed since last visit
- The HbA1C test result gives a good indication of patients overall diabetic control and enables the practitioner to gauge the risk of secondary pathology. Hyperglycaemia lowers immunity to infection and aids towards joint motion limitation.

3. Risk Factors

It is recommended that this section be completed on each assessment as it provides completeness and enables the practitioner to confirm 'risk' status from a medical / social grounding. It also allows for comments and communication between disciplines (though it is important to note that any serious concerns must be addressed appropriately and followed up, practitioners must not rely on action from comments on this form).

- The form can be referenced against previous assessments and should clearly show any increase in risk levels e.g. patient may have a recorded history of ulceration (shown on previous assessment), now lives alone due to divorce and has also started smoking.
- Previous ulceration maybe an indicator of existing diabetic foot disease. A person who has already had an episode of foot disease has a 40% risk of a second episode in 12 months. Previous ulcerated sites will also have reduced tensile strength increasing their susceptibility to breakdown from external factors such as ill-fitting footwear.
- Poor glycaemic control will increase the risk of arterial disease, neuropathy and infection.
- Age/sex – Trials have shown that diabetic foot ulcer rates are more common in males than females and the prevalence of both PN and PVD increases with age.
- Smoking causes an increased risk of arterial disease; hardening and calcification of the arteries impair blood flow to the foot.
- Living alone and self-neglect may mean that they have been unable to meet their nutritional and personal needs and are at risk of poor glycaemic control and foot care deficits
- Poor eyesight also reduces the ability to self-care and renders the patient unable to conduct daily visual checking of their feet.

- Retinopathy is associated with an increased risk of neuropathic foot ulceration.

4. Vascular assessment

It is recognised that in a busy clinical/in patient environment, time is of utmost importance. For the majority of patients being assessed, it is possibly sufficient to check for palpable pulses, temperature gradient, skin colour, and capillary refill time.

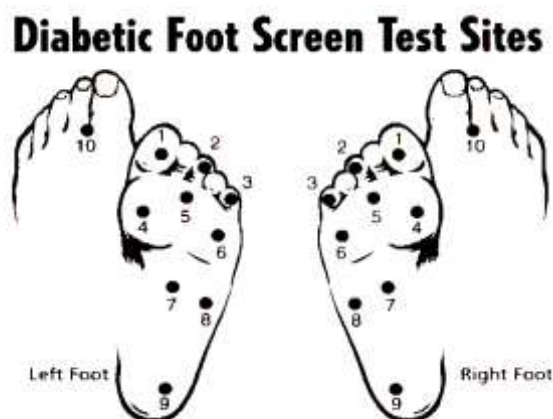
If there is active foot disease then referral to vascular surgery should be considered.

5. Neurological assessment

This is designed to test large fibres responsible for more crude sensory detection. In a clinical situation this together with observation, signs and symptoms may provide sufficient information to determine neuropathic status.

A 10 gram monofilament should be used on 10 sites for each foot. Less than 8 out of 10 would suggest a degree of neuropathy.

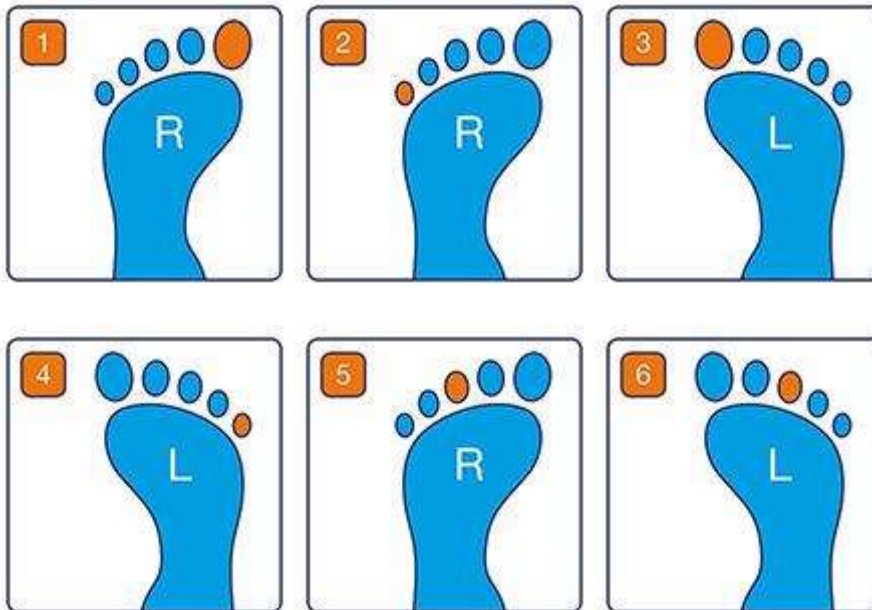
- First apply the monofilament on the patients inner wrist so the patient knows what to expect.
- With the patients eyes closed apply the filament to the 10 sites on both feet as shown below
- Apply the monofilament perpendicular to the skin surface
- Apply sufficient force for the monofilament to bend or buckle
- The total duration of the approach, skin contact and the removal of the filament should be approximately 2 seconds.
- Do not apply the filament over callus, ulcer site, scar or necrotic tissue
- Ask the patient if they feel any pressure and where



The use of the Ipswich Touch Toes Test is a simple, quick and does not require any equipment . The touch should be gentle, light as a feather and brief.

- Take off socks

- Touch each leg and say “This is your right” and “This is your left”
- Patient need to close their eyes until the end of the test
- All they must say is “right” or “left” as soon as they feel a touch on their toes.
- With your index finger lightly touch the patient’s toes in the following order.



- If the patient did not feel two or more of the six toes that were touched they are likely to have reduced sensation and at increased risk of foot ulcer/blister

Please see the following link for more detailed information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kauYqodCx6w&feature=youtu.be>

6. Foot Pathology

It is recommended that this section be completed on each assessment as it provides completeness and enables the practitioner to confirm the ‘risk’ status from a physical / pathological perspective.

It also allows for communication between disciplines **(though it is important to note that any serious concerns must be addressed appropriately and followed up, practitioners must not rely on action from comments on this form).**

The form can be referenced against previous assessments and should show, any increase in risk levels e.g. the patient may have had recorded the presence of a bony condition (shown on previous assessment), and is now exhibiting corn and callous formation associated with the previous condition.

This section can be further divided into:

- A thickened nail for example will increase pressure on the nail bed and thus there is potential for subungual ulceration.

- Involved and ingrowing nails or neglected nails may penetrate the skin allowing entry to bacteria and increasing the risk of infection.
 - Thickened nails, deformed nails or the absence of nails may indicate inadequate nutrition.
- a. **Skin** should be examined for callous, corns, dryness, fissuring, extravasation, broken skin, existing ulceration and gangrene etc. Here the site of the lesions should be noted.

Calluses result from increased pressures and may increase these pressures further. Calluses could also result from changes in foot structure due to motor neuropathy.

Callous, dryness, fissuring and poor elasticity may result from autonomic neuropathy and devitalisation through inadequate blood flow.

Bleeding under the skin is a sign of pressure.

Vital clues can be found on conducting skin examination towards the existence of underlying vascular and neuropathic problems. Skin examinations enable an assessment of the risk from high foot pressures and the potential for skin damage / breakage and hence infection risk.

- b. **Structural and Biomechanical / Gait abnormalities.** The obvious structural abnormality is the Cavoid foot type which may be an indication of the presence of PN but also results in increased pressures through a high medial longitudinal arch, exposed metatarsal heads and clawing of the digits.

Limited joint motion may occur through prolonged hyperglycaemia.

Pre-existing biomechanical abnormalities may affect gait and result in other structural problems such as Hallux Valgus which may pose similar problems.

A footwear assessment may identify gait patterns and identify potential risk factors by examining the wear on, and the shape of a worn shoe.

Footwear should be assessed for suitability as the style and make-up of the shoe may be a risk factor in itself.

7. Conclusion

This is the summary of the patients' overall 'risk' status and is dependent on the outcomes of the above tests and assessment.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) paper on Diabetic Foot Problems; Prevention and Management (NG19 2015, updated 2016)* gives succinct guidelines on the classification of these patients and the form is designed to reflect these (Type 1 Diabetics will also follow the same classification): -

- **Low Risk – normal sensation, palpable pulses**
- **Moderate Risk – neuropathy or absent pulses or other risk factors**
- **High Risk – neuropathy or absent pulses plus deformity or skin changes or previous ulcer**
- **Foot Ulceration/Active foot – care of people with foot care emergencies (e.g. Charcot neuropathic osteoarthropathy) and foot ulcers**

There is a fair degree of practitioner autonomy / interpretation afforded in this decision (as the Tool does not rely on score sheets etc.), thus practitioners are encouraged to comment.

* Update of guideline entitled - Clinical Guidelines and Evidence Review for Type 2 Diabetes; Prevention and Management of Foot Problems

8. Health Education

Foot health education in relation to the effects of Diabetes alone has been proven to reduce amputation rates by in excess of 50%.

This section is designed to provide a record of the topics discussed with the patient on the day of assessment as well as an indicator of topics still to be discussed for the practitioner (when referenced against previous assessments)

Appendix 6 Online Podiatry application form link

<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/OurServicesAZ-Podiatry-CountyPodiatryApplicationFormElectronicsubmission.aspx>

High Risk

Diabetes Foot Care information and advice leaflet



Diabetes is a lifelong condition which can cause foot problems. Some of these problems can occur because the nerves and blood vessels supplying your feet are damaged.

This can affect:

- the feeling in your feet (peripheral neuropathy); and
- the circulation in your feet (ischaemia).

These changes can be very gradual and you may not notice them. This is why it is essential that every year you have your feet screened and assessed by a podiatrist. You can then agree a treatment plan to suit your needs.

Your screening and assessment have shown that there is a **high risk** that you will develop foot ulcers. Your podiatrist will tick which of the following risk factors you have.

- You have lost some feeling in your feet.
- The circulation in your feet is reduced.
- Hard skin/skin changes on your feet.
- The shape of your foot has changed.
- Your vision is impaired.
- You cannot look after your feet yourself.
- Have had an ulcer or amputation before.
- Renal dialysis
- Other.....

Keeping good control of your diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure will help to control these problems.

If you smoke, you are strongly advised to stop. Smoking affects your circulation and can lead to amputation.

As your feet are at **high risk**, you will need to take extra care of them. You will need regular treatment by a podiatrist. If you follow the advice and information in this leaflet, it will help you to take care of your feet between visits to your podiatrist. Hopefully it will help to reduce the problems in the future.

Advice on keeping your feet healthy

Check your feet every day

You should check your feet every day for any blisters, breaks in the skin, pain or any signs of infection such as swelling, heat or redness. If you cannot do this yourself, ask your partner or carer to help you.

Wash your feet every day

You should wash your feet every day in warm water and with a mild soap. Rinse them thoroughly and dry them carefully, especially between the toes. Do not soak your feet as this can damage your skin. Because of your diabetes, you may not be able to feel hot and cold very well. You should test the temperature of the water with your elbow, or ask someone else to test the temperature for you.

Moisturise your feet every day

If your skin is dry, apply a moisturising cream every day, avoiding the areas between your toes.

Toenails

Do not cut your toenails unless your podiatrist advises you to. File your nails regularly following the curve of the end of your toe. Use a nail file to make sure that there are no sharp edges which could press into the next toe.

Socks, stockings and tights

You should change your socks, stockings or tights every day. They should not have bulky seams and the tops should not be elasticated.

Avoid walking barefoot

If you walk barefoot you risk injuring your feet by stubbing your toes and standing on sharp objects which can damage the skin.

Check your shoes

Check the bottom of your shoes before putting them on to make sure that nothing sharp such as a pin, nail or glass has pierced the outer sole. Also, run your hand inside each shoe to check that no small objects such as small stones have fallen in.

Badly-fitting shoes

Badly-fitting shoes are a common cause of irritation or damage to feet. The podiatrist who assessed your feet may give you advice about the shoes you are wearing and about buying new shoes. They may suggest that you are measured for special shoes you can get on prescription.

Prescription shoes

If you have been supplied with shoes, they will have been made to a prescription. You should follow the instructions your podiatrist or orthotist (the person who makes the shoes) gives you. These should be the only shoes you wear. Shoes will normally be prescribed with insoles. These are an important part of your shoes and you should only remove them if your orthotist or podiatrist advises you to. Whoever provided your shoes will carry out all repairs or alterations to make sure that they will match your prescription.

Minor cuts and blisters

If you check your feet and discover any breaks in the skin, minor cuts or blisters, cover the area with a sterile dressing. Do **not** burst blisters. If after one day there is no sign of healing contact your podiatry department or GP immediately (their contact numbers are

over the page). If unavailable go to your local accident and emergency department.

Hard skin and corns

Do not attempt to remove hard skin or corns yourself. Your podiatrist will provide treatment and advice where necessary.

Over-the-counter corn remedies

Do not use over-the-counter corn remedies. They are not recommended for anyone with diabetes as they can damage the skin and create foot ulcers.

Avoid high or low temperatures

If your feet are cold, wear socks. Never sit with your feet in front of the fire to warm them up. Always remove hot water bottles or electric blanket from your bed before getting in.

A history of ulcers

If you have had an ulcer before, or an amputation, you are at **high risk** of developing more ulcers. If you look after your feet carefully, with the help of a podiatrist, you will reduce the risk of more problems.

| |
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| <p>USEFUL WEBSITE ADDRESSES</p> <p>www.diabetes.org.uk www.nhs.uk www.feetforlife.org</p> |
|--|

Individual advice

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.....

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Local contact numbers

Podiatry Department: GP Surgery:

| |
|--|
| <p>SPOTTING A FOOT ATTACK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your foot red, warm or swollen?• Is there a break in the skin or any discharge (or oozing) on to your socks or stockings?• Do you feel unwell? <p>You may not have pain even with a visible wound.</p> <p>Contact your GP, Podiatrist or Nurse immediately (or a member of the Foot Protection Service).</p> <p>If unavailable go to your nearest out of hours healthcare service or your A&E department.</p> |
|--|

Based on the original leaflet produced by the Scottish Diabetes Group—Foot Action Group

| Day | Time | Podiatry Clinics | |
|-----------|--------------------|---|---|
| Monday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Hinckley Health Centre Hill Street Hinckley Leics LE10 1DS | St Lukes Hospital 33 Leicester Road Market Harborough LE16 7 BN |
| Tuesday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | South Wigston Health Centre 80 Blaby Road South Wigston Leicester LE18 4SE | |
| Wednesday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Coalville Community Hospital Broom Leys Road Coalville Leics LE67 4DE | Merlyn Vaz Health & Social Care Centre 1 Spinney Hill Road Leicester LE5 3GH |
| Thursday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Melton Mowbray Hospital Thorpe Road Melton Mowbray Leics LE13 1SJ | |
| Friday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Loughborough Hospital Epinal Way Clinic Entrance 2, Hospital Way Loughborough Leics LE11 5JU | Braunstone Health & Social Care Centre Hockley Farm Road Leicester LE3 1HN |

Patients can attend any clinic if they have an emergency regardless of locality

Please contact the Podiatry Call Centre on: 0116 225 5118

If you feel the emergency is such that you cannot wait to go to any of the above clinics; please call the appointments line and inform them so they may contact a podiatrist to try and get you seen within a working day. If your problem occurs at the weekend, please seek help from your GP or go to A&E.

Other contact Details e.g. Your Diabetes Specialist

Podiatrist:.....

Moderate Risk (Increased Risk)



Diabetes Foot Care information and advice leaflet

Diabetes is a lifelong condition which can cause foot problems. Some of these problems can occur because the nerves and blood vessels supplying your feet are damaged.

This can affect:

- the feeling in your feet (peripheral neuropathy); and
- the circulation in your feet (ischaemia).

These changes can be very gradual and you may not notice them. This is why it is essential you receive a foot screening and assessment from a **podiatrist** every year. You can then agree a treatment plan to suit your needs.

Your screening and assessment have shown that there is a **moderate (increased) risk** that you will develop foot ulcers. Your podiatrist will tick which of the following risk factors you have.

- You have lost some feeling in your feet.
- The circulation in your feet is reduced.
- Hard skin / skin changes on your feet.
- The shape of your foot has changed.
- Your vision is impaired.
- You cannot look after your feet yourself.
- Other

If you smoke, you are strongly advised to stop. Smoking affects your circulation and can lead to amputation.

Controlling your diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure, and having your feet assessed every year by a podiatrist will help to reduce the risk of developing problems with your feet.

As your feet are at **moderate risk** of developing ulcers, you will need to take extra care of them. You may need treatment by a podiatrist or podiatry assistant.

If you follow the advice and information in this leaflet, it will help you to take care of your

feet between visits to your podiatrist. Hopefully it will help to reduce the problems in the future.

Advice on keeping your feet healthy

Check your feet every day

You should check your feet every day for any blisters, breaks in the skin, pain or any signs of infection such as swelling, heat or redness. If you cannot do this yourself, ask your partner or carer to help you.

Wash your feet every day

You should wash your feet every day in warm water and with a mild soap. Rinse them thoroughly and dry them carefully, especially between the toes. Do not soak your feet as this can damage your skin. Because of your diabetes, you may not be able to feel hot and cold very well. You should test the temperature of the water with your elbow, or ask someone else to test the temperature for you.

Moisturise your feet every day

If your skin is dry, apply a moisturising cream every day, avoiding the areas between your toes.

Toenails

Cut or file your toenails regularly, following the curve of the end of your toe. Use a nail file to make sure that there are no sharp edges which could press into the next toe. Do not cut down the sides of your nails as you may create a 'spike' of nail which could result in an ingrowing toenail.

Socks, stockings and tights

You should change your socks, stockings or tights every day. They should not have bulky seams and the tops should not be elasticated.

Check your shoes

Check the bottom of your shoes before putting them on to make sure that nothing sharp such as a pin, nail or glass has pierced the outer sole. Also, run your hand inside each shoe to check that no small objects such as small stones have fallen in.

Badly-fitting shoes

Badly-fitting shoes are a common cause of irritation or damage to feet. The podiatrist who assessed your feet may give you advice about the shoes you are wearing and about buying new shoes. They may suggest that you are measured for special shoes you can get on prescription.

Avoid walking barefoot

If you walk barefoot you risk injuring your feet by stubbing your toes and standing on sharp objects which can damage the skin.

Minor cuts and blisters

If you check your feet and discover any breaks in the skin, minor cuts or blisters; cover them with a sterile dressing. Do **not** burst blisters. If after one day there is no sign of healing contact your podiatry department or GP immediately (their contact numbers are

over the page). If unavailable go to your local accident and emergency department.

Hard skin and corns

Do not attempt to remove hard skin or corns yourself. Your podiatrist will provide treatment and advice where necessary.

Over-the-counter corn remedies

Never use over-the-counter corn remedies. They are not recommended for anyone with diabetes as they can damage the skin and create foot ulcers.

Avoid high or low temperatures

If your feet are cold, wear socks. Never sit with your feet in front of the fire to warm them up. Always remove hot water bottles and turn off electric blanket before getting into bed.

| |
|--|
| <p>USEFUL WEBSITE ADDRESSES</p> <p>www.diabetes.org.uk www.nhs.uk www.feetforlife.org</p> |
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Individual advice

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Local contact numbers

Podiatry Department: GP Surgery:

| |
|--|
| <p>SPOTTING A FOOT ATTACK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your foot red, warm or swollen?• Is there a break in the skin or any discharge (or oozing) on to your socks or stockings?• Do you feel unwell? <p>You may not have pain even with a visible wound.</p> <p>Contact your GP, Podiatrist or Nurse immediately (or a member of the Foot Protection Service).</p> <p>If unavailable go to your nearest out of hours healthcare service or your A&E department.</p> |
|--|

Based on the original leaflet produced by the Scottish Diabetes Group—Foot Action Group

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| Thursday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Melton Mowbray Hospital Thorpe Road Melton Mowbray Leics LE13 1SJ | |
| Friday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Loughborough Hospital Epinal Way Clinic Entrance 2, Hospital Way Loughborough Leics LE11 5JU | Braunstone Health & Social Care Centre Hockley Farm Road Leicester LE3 1HN |

Patients can attend any clinic if they have an emergency regardless of locality

Please contact the Podiatry Call Centre on: 0116 225 5118

If you feel the emergency is such that you cannot wait to go to any of the above clinics; please call the appointments line and inform them so they may contact a podiatrist to try and get you seen within a working day. If your problem occurs at the weekend, please seek help from your GP or go to A&E.

Other contact Details e.g. Your Diabetes Specialist

Podiatrist:.....

Low Risk



Diabetes Foot Care information and advice leaflet

Diabetes is a lifelong condition which can cause foot problems. Some of these problems can occur because the nerves and blood vessels supplying your feet are damaged.

This can affect:

- the feeling in your feet (peripheral neuropathy); and
- the circulation in your feet (ischaemia).

These changes can be very gradual and you may not notice them. This is why it is essential you have your feet screened every year.

Your foot screening has shown that you do not have nerve or blood vessel damage at present and so you are currently at **low risk** of developing foot complications because of your diabetes.

Controlling your diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure, and having your feet screened every year by a suitably trained professional, will help to reduce the risk of developing problems with your feet.

If you smoke, you are strongly advised to stop. Smoking affects your circulation and can lead to amputation.

As your feet are in good condition, you will not need regular podiatry treatment.

If you follow the simple advice in this leaflet, you should be able to carry out your own foot care unless you develop a specific problem.

Advice on keeping your feet healthy

Check your feet every day

You should check your feet every day for any blisters, breaks in the skin, pain or any signs of infection such as swelling, heat or redness.

Wash your feet every day

You should wash your feet every day in warm water and with a mild soap. Rinse them thoroughly and dry them carefully, especially between the toes. Do not soak your feet as this can damage your skin.

Moisturise your feet every day

If your skin is dry, apply a moisturising cream every day, avoiding the areas between your toes.

Toenails

Cut or file your toenails regularly, following the curve of the end of your toe. Use a nail file to make sure that there are no sharp edges which could press into the next toe. Do not cut down the sides of your nails as you may create a 'spike' of nail which could result in an ingrowing toenail.

Socks, stockings and tights

You should change your socks, stockings or tights every day. They should not have bulky seams and the tops should not be elasticated.

Avoid walking barefoot

If you walk barefoot you risk injuring your feet by stubbing your toes and standing on sharp objects which can damage the skin

Check your shoes

Check the bottom of your shoes before putting them on to make sure that nothing sharp such as a pin, nail or glass has pierced the outer sole. Also, run your hand inside each shoe to check that no small objects such as small stones have fallen in.

Badly-fitting shoes

Badly-fitting shoes are a common cause of irritation or damage to feet. The professional who screened your feet may give you advice about the shoes you are wearing and about buying new shoes.

Minor cuts and blisters

If you check your feet and discover any breaks in the skin, minor cuts or blisters, you should cover them with a sterile dressing and check them every day. Do **not** burst blisters. If the problems do not heal within a few days, or if you notice any signs of infection (swelling, heat, redness or pain), contact your podiatry department or GP (their contact numbers are over the page).

Over-the-counter corn remedies

Do not use over-the-counter corn remedies. They are not recommended for anyone with diabetes as they can cause damage to the skin that can create problems.

USEFUL WEBSITE ADDRESSES

www.diabetes.org.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.feetforlife.org

Individual advice

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Local contact numbers

Podiatry Department:

GP Surgery:

SPOTTING A FOOT ATTACK

- Is your foot red, warm or swollen?
- Is there a break in the skin or any discharge (or oozing) on to your socks or stockings?
- Do you feel unwell?

You may not have pain even with a visible wound.

Contact your GP, Podiatrist or Nurse immediately **(or a member of the Foot Protection Service).**

If unavailable go to your nearest out of hours healthcare service or your A&E department.

Based on the original leaflet produced by the Scottish Diabetes Group—Foot Action Group

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Please contact the Podiatry Call Centre on: 0116 225 5118

If you feel the emergency is such that you cannot wait to go to any of the above clinics; please call the appointments line and inform them so they may contact a podiatrist to try and get you seen within a working day. If your problem occurs at the weekend, please seek help from your GP or go to A&E.

Other contact Details e.g. Your Diabetes Specialist

Podiatrist:.....

Appendix 10 Podiatry Community Foot (Drop-in) Clinics (Formerly Fast Access)

Leicestershire Partnership 

NHS Trust

A University Teaching Trust

Community Health Services Division

Podiatry Service

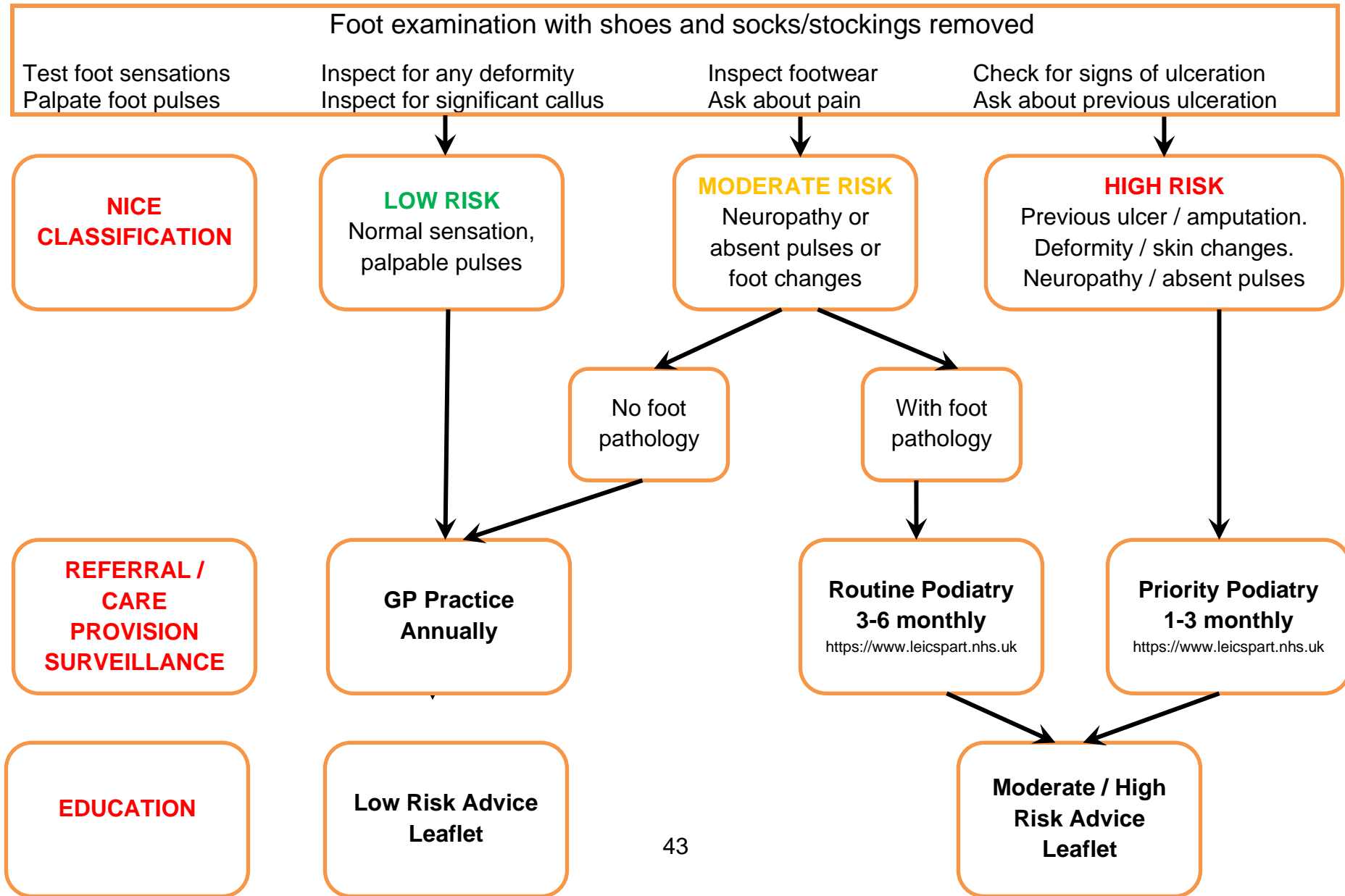
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| Monday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Hinckley Health Centre Hill Street Hinckley Leics LE10 1DS | St Lukes Hospital 33 Leicester Road Market Harborough LE16 7 BN |
| Tuesday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | South Wigston Health Centre 80 Blaby Road South Wigston Leicester LE18 4SE | |
| Wednesday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Coalville Community Hospital Broom Leys Road Coalville Leics LE67 4DE | Merlyn Vaz Health & Social Care Centre 1 Spinney Hill Road Leicester LE5 3GH |
| Thursday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Melton Mowbray Hospital Thorpe Road Melton Mowbray Leics LE13 1SJ | |
| Friday | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm | Loughborough Hospital Epinal Way Clinic Entrance 2, Hospital Way Loughborough Leics LE11 5JU | Braunstone Health & Social Care Centre Hockley Farm Road Leicester LE3 1HN |

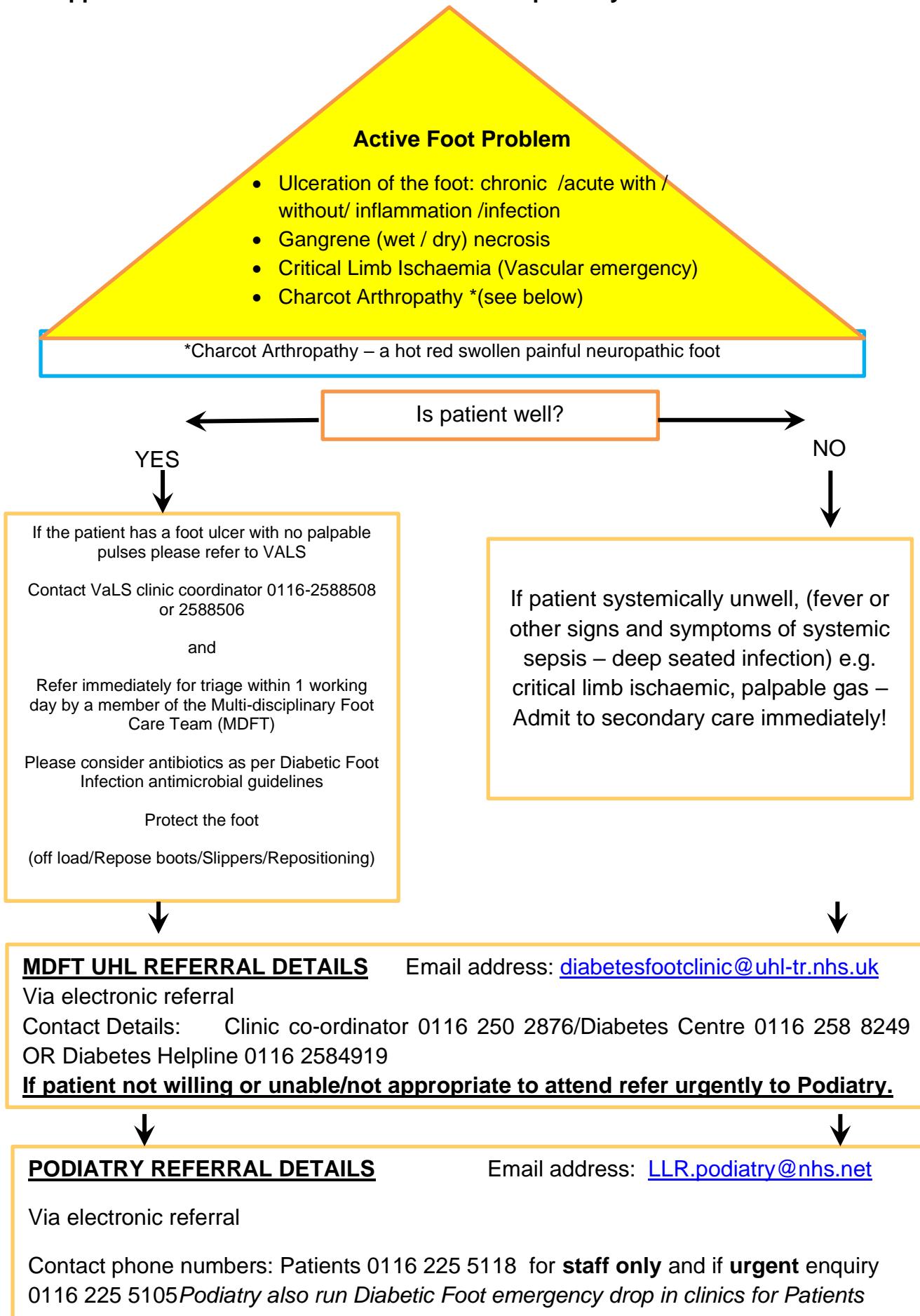
Patients can attend any clinic if they have an emergency regardless of locality

Please contact the Podiatry Call Centre on: 0116 225 5105

Appendix 11

Flowchart for referral procedure

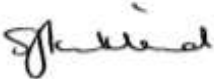




Appendix 13

DATA PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING

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| <p>Data Privacy impact assessment (DPIAs) are a tool which can help organisations identify the most effective way to comply with their data protection obligations and meet Individual’s expectations of privacy.</p> <p>The following screening questions will help the Trust determine if there are any privacy issues associated with the implementation of the Policy. Answering ‘yes’ to any of these questions is an indication that a DPIA may be a useful exercise. An explanation for the answers will assist with the determination as to whether a full DPIA is required which will require senior management support, at this stage the Head of Data Privacy must be involved.</p> | | |
| Name of Document: | | |
| Completed by: | Catherine Holland Helen Parberry | |
| Job title | Podiatry service manager Diabetes Specialist Podiatrist | Date 18/06/2020 |
| Screening Questions | Yes / No | Explanatory Note |
| 1. Will the process described in the document involve the collection of new information about individuals? This is information in excess of what is required to carry out the process described within the document. | Yes | Yes – carrying out a DFA may result in new information being divulged for the first time. In particular risk factor information/social information |
| 2. Will the process described in the document compel individuals to provide information about them? This is information in excess of what is required to carry out the process described within the document. | Yes | Yes – the DFA asks individuals their social situation, eg living alone, marital status, smoker |
| 3. Will information about individuals be disclosed to organisations or people who have not previously had routine access to the information as part of the process described in this document? | Yes | Results of the Diabetic foot assessments will be shared with other health professionals/GPs within LPT and possibly UHL all via our current secure methods in line with NICE guidance for care of patients with Diabetic foot problems. |
| 4. Are you using information about individuals for a purpose it is not currently used for, or in a way it is not currently used? | No | |
| 5. Does the process outlined in this document involve the use of new technology which might be perceived as being privacy intrusive? For example, the use of biometrics. | No | |
| 6. Will the process outlined in this document result in decisions being made or action taken against individuals in ways which can have a significant impact on them? | Yes | If a foot ulcer or podiatric need is discovered this may require the individual to attend more appointments, potentially community and hospital for dressing changes, debridement, x-rays, orthotist care. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 7. As part of the process outlined in this document, is the information about individuals of a kind particularly likely to raise privacy concerns or expectations? For examples, health records, criminal records or other information that people would consider to be particularly private. | Yes | records are shared with consent and this is recorded as part of their podiatric/health records across the trust |
| 8. Will the process require you to contact individuals in ways which they may find intrusive? | No | |
| <p>If the answer to any of these questions is 'Yes' please contact the Data Privacy Team via Lpt-dataprivacy@leicspart.secure.nhs.uk In this case, ratification of a procedural document will not take place until review by the Head of Data Privacy.</p> | | |
| Data Privacy approval name: | Sam Kirkland, Head of Data Privacy  | |
| Date of approval | 05/08/20 | |

Acknowledgement: This is based on the work of Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust