

**Quality and Governance Service**

Wirral Community NHS Trust

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**Our Ref:** CTFOI-745

26<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

**Original Request**

1. Does your trust operate a foot protection service, as recommended by NICE guideline NG19 on 'Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management'?
2. If the answer to Q1 is yes, please state the number of podiatrists and orthotists employed within this service.
3. If the answer to Q1 is yes, is this service led by a podiatrist with specialist training in diabetic foot problems, as recommended by NICE guideline NG19 on 'Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management'?
4. If the answer to Q1 is no, please provide a reason for this.

**Our Response**

A designated foot protection service does not exist within the community podiatry service. However, the functions of such a service are incorporated into the day to day activities of the wider community podiatry service as commissioned by our local Clinical Commissioning Group under an AQP service specification.

Robust referral pathways are in place between community and secondary care which allow for the referral of patients with diabetic foot ulceration/complication to consultant led diabetic foot clinics at the acute trust. Once care is complete, further protocols are in place to allow patients to be referred back into primary care. Patients are then re-booked by the community podiatry service to ensue on-going management and early referral back to secondary care if further problems are identified.

Diabetes specialist podiatrists are employed by the service. The service has supported 9 clinicians in the completion of the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists diabetic foot module in the last 2 years. These clinicians undertake care of diabetic patients in community as well as secondary care as part of a Service Level Agreement between the community trust and our secondary care provider. The service does not employ orthotics (these are employed directly by the secondary care provider), however, the service employs podiatrists with specialist knowledge in biomechanics and who carry a caseload of patients with various medical conditions, including diabetes.

The service provides an annual foot screening recall service for 'at risk' and 'high risk' diabetic patients with low risk patients having this completed by their GP.



Vascular and Neurological assessment, taking into account NICE guidelines are completed as part of the patients annual diabetic foot screening. Annual foot screening reports completed by the podiatry service are sent to the patients GP within 5 days of completion.

I trust this satisfies your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Greatrex  
Director of Finance & Resources and Deputy Chief Executive Officer



**Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust**  
Acting Chairman: Chris Allen  
Chief Executive: Karen Howell