

Clinical Guidance during Covid-19

This guidance applies following the PM's announcement on 23rd March at 8.30pm.

As a result of COVID-19 the NHS system will be under significant strain.

Supporting the management of high-risk foot patients, to help avoid complications such as ulceration and specifically infection is essential. With this in mind, we would advise the following:

1. If you show any of the signs of Covid-19 infection you must self-isolate for 7 days, if any of your household show symptoms you must self-isolate for 14 days.
2. FHP's and Podiatrists in private practice, who are vulnerable themselves, should follow advice and strongly consider self-isolation.
- 3. All routine and non-urgent treatments and assessments should be delayed until further notice and can be provided with telephone consultation. For patients with low risk feet should defer seeking treatment until the advice changes.**
4. Patients urgent need can be treated if they are at risk of breakdown or infection. Risk assess each patient and document your clinical reasoning that leads to the decision to treat.
5. When treating patients, you should be following the guidance of the College of Foot Health Practitioners and the HCPC Infection Control Standards.
6. If a patient requires urgent attention but has or is suspected of having Covid-19 you must not treat them in Private Practice and you should advise them to call 111.
7. Ideally limiting distance (2 metres minimum from their face) and length of time spent with patient's limits the spread of the disease - noting when visiting there may be others present and they should be advised to avoid close proximity whilst you are treating the patient suggesting that they make themselves absent in another room.
8. Any patient with a high-risk feet suffering an infection should engage with their GP immediately or dial 111.
9. Regular cleaning of door surfaces and door handles is advised using antibacterial and viricidal spray.
10. When sitting with a patient observe all hygiene rules and wear PPE.
11. Waiting room chairs should be well spaced.
12. Prior to any visit all patients should be contacted to ensure that they are in good health and to risk assess that their appoint is required or could be deferred.