

- A service for people with diabetes related foot problems
- Our aim is to prevent people being admitted to hospital for foot related problems
- It is a short term service which will transition you to a suitable community or private service

## The Diabetic Foot Unit

The Diabetic Foot Unit is a team that looks after people with diabetes and foot related problems.

### Different stages of care

Service	When will I use this service?	Who will be treating me?
<b>Diabetic Foot Unit- Inpatient care</b>	<p>If you need to stay in the hospital for your foot problem, the treating team will visit you at your bedside.</p> <p>You will stay in hospital when your treatment cannot be done as an outpatient.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several doctors who specialise in diabetes, blood flow and rehabilitation</li> <li>• Podiatrists who will look after your foot problem</li> </ul> <p><i>Other people you will meet include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical psychologist (who provides you with emotional support)</li> <li>• Physiotherapist (who treats your movement problems)</li> <li>• Orthotists (who specialise in footwear devices)</li> <li>• Dietician (who helps you with food and nutrition)</li> <li>• Diabetes educator (who helps you understand how to best manage diabetes)</li> </ul>
<b>Diabetic Foot Unit- Hospital Outpatient Clinic</b>	<p>The team will continue to treat your foot wounds/problems when you are discharged home from the hospital.</p> <p>You will be treated in the Outpatient Clinic if you need further medical testing, medication or footwear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podiatrists, several doctors, clinical psychologist and orthotists</li> <li>• The team will keep in contact with your GP</li> </ul>
<b>Podiatry Outpatient clinic</b>	<p>If you no longer need medical input but need ongoing foot wound care.</p> <p>You will have access to further medical testing if required and footwear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podiatrists will manage your foot problem</li> <li>• Orthotists</li> </ul>

Service	When will I use this service?	Who will be treating me?
<b>Community Diabetic Foot Unit</b>  <b>Outpatient clinic</b>	Hospital Podiatrists also work at cohealth in Moonee Ponds and Merri Community Health in Coburg and Fawkner.  You will be treated in the community when your foot is stable. The podiatrist will work with you and your GP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podiatrists will manage your foot problem</li> <li>• Wound nurses sometimes visit you at home</li> <li>• If required, a diabetes educator can attend your appointment as well</li> <li>• The team will keep in contact with your GP</li> </ul>

## Discharge plan

Once your foot condition has healed and remained stable for six months we aim to transition you to a community or private podiatrist.

You can be referred back to the Diabetes Foot Service by any health professional.

If you develop a severe foot problem and you cannot contact your podiatrist or local doctor, you should attend an emergency department.

## Data Collection

The staff will need to collect information regarding your medical history, problems affecting your health, as well as basic information such as age. This is in keeping with the Victorian Health Records Act (2001). This information is used to measure the benefit of the service.

## Further information

If you would like more information regarding the service, please visit the Melbourne Health website at: [www.rmh.mh.org.au/HARP](http://www.rmh.mh.org.au/HARP)

### Contact

Podiatry Department

Ph: (03) 9342 7134

DiabetesFoot@mh.org.au

### Referrals via Direct Access Unit

Fax: (03) 8387 2217

### Practitioner / Patient notes

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