

New diabetic foot clinics helping to prevent amputations in Lincolnshire

New one-stop foot clinics in Lincolnshire are already seeing results, just weeks after being set up to help prevent amputations in people with diabetes.

Background

People with diabetes are much more likely to develop problems with their feet as high blood sugars can damage blood circulation and the feeling in their feet. If left untreated patients can develop foot ulcers, infections and, at worst, it can lead to amputation.

Statistics show 4 out of 5 amputations can be prevented.

New clinics

New clinics are being run at Lincoln County Hospital and Pilgrim Hospital, bringing together the expertise of vascular and orthopaedic surgeons, podiatrists, research nurses, radiology, microbiology, cast technicians and orthotics.

A diabetic patient is 16 times more at risk of having a limb amputation than a non-diabetic of the same age.

Time is so important in these cases and having to wait for a referral to the diabetes foot team or vascular team could make a real difference between a patient keeping their foot or having to have it amputated. It really is that serious.

By having these clinics a patient can come in see a diabetes doctor, have their foot treated by the podiatrist, they can seek the advice of the vascular team and can have scans, treatments and check-ups all in one visit.

By working so closely together we can prevent the risk of amputation it is as simple as that. It also has a positive impact on our patients general health, reduces mortality, reduces the number of hospital admissions, means fewer hospital outpatient visits for patients and improves their quality of life.

Despite only running for a few weeks we are confident that we are going to see the new clinics having a positive impact, not only on the state of our patients' feet but also their overall health.

We want to roll out more services like this for our patients in the future as part of our 2021 strategy – services that value patient’s time, getting things right first time, and providing great high quality care.