

# What is a Podiatric Surgeon?

Podiatric Surgery is a specialist field of practice within the podiatry profession.

Podiatric surgeons are podiatrists who have had extensive postgraduate training in the surgical management of foot and ankle problems.

Despite practising surgery, your consultant will advise you about the non-surgical treatments available for your foot problem. This will help you make an informed choice regarding your treatment and agree a care plan together.

## An Expert in their field

Podiatric Surgeons have a formal education in foot health and medical sciences and are trained to recognise the signs and symptoms of general medical conditions within the lower limb e.g. diabetes. Your consultant will be able to treat the foot and ankle symptoms of these conditions but will liaise with your GP for a formal medical opinion or assistance if required.

A Podiatric Surgeon is to feet very much like a dentist is to teeth; an independent clinician in the field of foot surgery and not a medical doctor.

## Where do Podiatric Surgeons work?

Consultant Podiatric Surgeons work in the NHS and private sector and are recognised by private health insurance providers.

Podiatric Surgeons are valued members of the healthcare team and receive referrals from a range of health professionals seeking their expert opinion, e.g. GPs, other consultants, podiatrists, practice nurses and physiotherapists.

## Surgical Training

### Podiatrist

3-4 Year University Degree in Podiatric Medicine.

### Specialist Podiatrist

2-3 Year MSc in The Theory of Podiatric Surgery  
Assessment of Professional Skills

### Podiatric Surgical Trainee

3 Year Consultant Supervised Training  
Final surgical examination

### Specialist Registrar in Podiatric Surgery

3 Year Specialist Training to consolidate surgical skills.

### Podiatric Surgeon

Can apply for a Consultant post as a lead clinician  
A Minimum of 11 Years Specialist Training.

Podiatric surgery services are based in acute hospital and community trusts, as well as in independent hospitals across the UK.

## Quality Assurance

Podiatric Surgery is a proven and effective part of foot health care, with thousands of foot operations undertaken in the UK by Podiatric Surgeons every year.

Information is collected for audit purposes in order to review performance, show evidence of practice and assess patient outcomes and experiences. Ask your consultant about the national audit database PASCOM-10.

