

# COVID-19 Podiatry Guidelines

## For all podiatrists based on the FIP-IFP definition

A Podiatrist is a health science/medical professional, that enjoys legal protection regarding its title (Podiatry/Podiatrist/Podiatric medicine), is recognised by the government as a health professional and has followed a bachelor degree as a minimum educational level starting from an undergraduate level. The podiatrist has an obligation of continuous professional development. The podiatrist receives a licence to practice from an governmental authority and works evidence-based based on a code of conduct that specifies the deontology and ethical standards of the podiatric practice.

## Advice for Podiatrists



We advise all members to assess all patients/ service users via phone in relation to their clinical need.

When discussing with patients/ service users it is important to ascertain the individual risk factors and pertinent medical history as well as the history and nature of the pathology. What is the impact of this pathology on their daily lives? This may be a change to their normal way of life especially if they are in lockdown.

## Following questions may be of use when speaking to patients/ service users:

- Is this problem affecting your daily life?
- Is the problem significant enough that you have had to take pain relief?
- Has this problem led to infection and/or breakdown in the past?

## Where physical treatment is deemed appropriate:

Call the Service user 24 hours prior to appointment to ascertain:

- 1) If they have any symptoms at all they should not attend and contact their GP for advice whether COVID-19 related or not.
- 2) If they have been in contact with any suspected or confirmed cases of Covid 19

The podiatrist needs to consider what they can add to the current problem balanced against the risk of the likelihood of the individual contracting CoVid 19 before offering a face-to-face consultation.

Bear in mind that many patients have been in isolation for an extended period of time and may be keen to have a medical appointment to facilitate essential travel.

#StopTheSpread



**FIP** FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES PODOLOGUES  
**IFP** INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF PODIATRISTS

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- When arranging an appointment it is important to explain what will happen and how – this may be different than when they attended in the past.
- Patients should attend for treatment on their own where possible – the person who accompanies them is advised to wait outside the clinic.
- We would recommend giving a set appointment time requesting that the patient is punctual and that you are ready to receive them at the appointed time.
- We would recommend sufficient time between appointments in order to avoid any overlap and allow time for infection control procedures.
- We would recommend that face to face time is kept to a minimum – history taking and advice can be managed by phone either before or after the consultation.
- Ensure all non-essential items are removed from the waiting room and practice
- Place signage at the entrance to the practice and ensure a further verbal check for fever or symptoms of respiratory illness and CoVID-19.
- Promote hand hygiene upon arrival (signage, verbal reminders and provide hand cleaning facilities ).
- Ensure you are following local infection control procedures and have appropriate personal protective equipment for your safety and the service user.
- If you are not sure whether to see a service user or not – we recommend delaying the appointment and continue to link in with them via phone until a decision can be made.
- Continue to utilise existing referral pathways for those patients who have acute ulceration or infection
- Promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (signage, provide tissue and bins)..