

Name:
Name of Doctor/Nurse/Podiatrist:

Date:

Diabetes and your feet

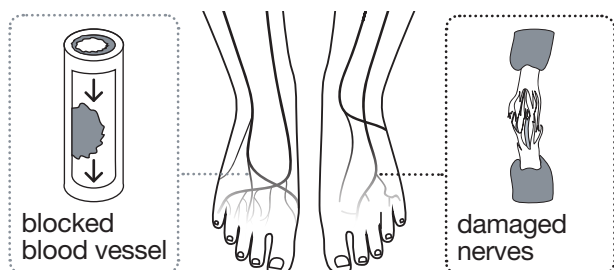
Information Prescription

Your foot risk is **LOW**

People with diabetes are at higher risk of developing serious foot problems, including ulcers and infections. These could lead to amputations and increase your risk of a heart attack and stroke. By managing your diabetes and looking after your feet you can reduce your risk of foot problems.

What you should know about your feet and diabetes

- Diabetes can damage the blood flow to your feet.
- Diabetes can damage the nerves in your feet, changing the way you feel things.
- High blood glucose (sugar) also increases the risk that any wounds or ulcers could become infected.



When do you have a foot problem?

The damage to nerves or blood flow can cause numbness, burning, dull ache or changes in the skin. If this happens, see your GP or podiatrist. However if you develop changes in the shape, colour or temperature or notice a wound you didn't know was there, ask for an urgent GP appointment.

How do you keep your feet healthy?

Get to know what's normal for your feet. Remember, if you lose feeling in your feet you might not be able to feel damage – no pain isn't a sign that it's not serious. See the next column for ways to keep your feet healthy.

Agreed action plan

My personal goal is:

To be achieved when:

The two steps that I will take to achieve this are:

(Discuss and agree with your healthcare professional. Think about what, where, when and how?)

1

2

Smoking

- Get advice to stop smoking. Smoking makes it harder for blood to flow around your body.

Look after your diabetes

- Keep your blood sugar, cholesterol, and blood pressure at safe levels. Talk to your doctor or nurse about your latest results and what your personal targets should be.
- Ask about local diabetes courses.

Eat a healthy balanced diet and stay active

- Lifestyle changes could help manage your diabetes. Some activities can increase the risk to your feet, so discuss new ways to get active with your clinician.

Look after your feet

- Check your feet daily or ask for help if you can't.
- Look after toe nails – not too short or long.
- Wear shoes and socks that don't rub – get your feet measured to check the fit of shoes.

How to check your feet

- Take off shoes and socks.
- Feel the temperature of your feet – are both the same? Noticeably hotter or colder than normal?
- Look for changes in skin and unexplained injuries.
- Look at your toes – checking for damage between your toes and that your nails aren't too long.
- It may be tricky to see all of your foot – ask for help or use a mirror.

If you notice a problem then make an appointment with your GP to get it checked out.