

Highlight Notice: Tackling issues in foot care to prevent people with diabetes developing foot conditions

[The Diabetes Research Steering Groups](#) have identified that there is a need for more clinical research on diabetes foot care services. Alongside this, a Foot Health Priority Setting Partnership carried out by The Dr William M. Scholl Unit For Podiatric Development, identified the [top 10 questions](#) on foot health which people with lived experience of foot conditions and healthcare professionals who treat them would like research to answer. Now, working together, Diabetes UK and the Dr William M. Scholl Unit are looking for projects focussed on issues of foot care for people with diabetes. The research topics were identified as being important by both groups because they will impact the lives of people with diabetes, deliver high quality results, and give a high value for money.

This highlight notice is an invitation for scientists to apply to this funding round with research proposals that aim to address issues in foot care to prevent people living with diabetes from developing foot conditions in the future. Research in this area has the potential to help us to better understand what foot care services needed by people with diabetes and what stops people getting the care and treatment they need, all with the aim of improving foot care services and preventing foot conditions developing in all types of diabetes.

“Living with diabetes is a daily challenge. When serious foot complications are present those challenges are significantly magnified, all too often leading to devastating, life changing but importantly, potentially preventable events. Research is urgently needed in order to reduce the burden of severe foot disease, not only on the person affected

but also their families, the NHS and Social Care. We need to understand when to ask for support and dependant on the problem, to whom we should refer ourselves. To enable this, we need a system of care that is truly joined up across primary, secondary and social care. Most importantly, we need research that acknowledges the key role that the person with diabetes must play in order to achieve their best possible foot health and mobility". Ann Middleton, person living with diabetes and co-author of this highlight notice.