

Diabetes Foot Service (DFS) at Western Health

The Western Hospital (Footscray) Diabetes Foot Service (DFS) provides high risk assessment and management to patients with diabetes related foot complications in the Western Region.

The DFS clinic includes the following disciplines:

- Podiatry
- Endocrinology
- Vascular Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Diabetes Education
- Orthotics

Please review the following guidelines before referring a patient to the DFS

Eligibility for DFS services at Western Health

Diabetes related foot problem including but not limited to:

- Non healing foot ulceration (>1 month with no reduction in size, despite appropriate care)
- Active Charcot Foot
- Foot osteomyelitis with ulceration
- Chronic ischaemic signs and symptoms of the lower limb with foot ulceration

Conditions not seen at Western Health DFS

The following conditions are not seen by the DFS specialists at Western Health:

- Patients with a foot wound but without a diagnosis of Diabetes
- Referrals for routine diabetic foot checks
- Patients with resolving ulcerations
- Patients requiring footwear and/or orthotics not related to an active foot wound
- Patients in residential aged care facilities (if required refer to relevant medical/surgical Western Health outpatient clinic)

Alarm Symptoms

Urgent conditions are beyond the scope of these guidelines. If immediate assessment is required please refer patients directly to Footscray Emergency Department. Please note there is no DFS at Sunshine or Williamstown Hospitals

Refer immediately to Emergency Department:

- Septic patient or acutely unwell patient due to foot infection
- Critical lower limb ischemia with necrosis, pain or ulceration
- Suspected acute limb ischaemia
- Rapidly deteriorating ulceration/necrosis

Minimum clinical information for referral

- Diabetes history e.g. Type, year of onset etc.
- Medical history
- Medications, including current antibiotics (if any)
- Recent pathology tests e.g. routine bloods, HbA1c, wound swabs etc.
- Recent vascular imaging e.g. Duplex ultrasound
- X-ray or other imaging, with results/reports
- Wound history and location
- Details of any current podiatry involvement

Please note referrals that do not provide adequate information for triaging may be returned with a request for further information.

Referral requirements

- Clearly address referral to the Diabetes Foot Service, fax referrals to 8345 6529
- List your provider number and the patient's Medicare number
- Provide any health advocacy requirements for the client

Please contact the DFS on 8345 7356 or the DFS Coordinator on 0466 48 77 27 if you would like to discuss a referral

