**Introduction to Podiatry Clinical Placements**

**Clinical Placements within Podiatry**

**​**Our aim for your clinical placements is for you to have an enjoyable and fulfilling time with us at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

The experience you have with ELHT Podiatry will depend upon your level of training. You may be simply observing clinics. You may assist the clinician. If you are a Podiatry student, you will gradually start to treat the patients, and as your placements progress you will be treating patients under supervision.

The BSc (Hons) Podiatry degree is most locally available at Salford and Huddersfield Universities. On your clinical placements at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, you will come into contact with a variety of professionals who will guide you through your practical training and prepare you for your future career as a Podiatrist.

Where possible, we also like to provide you with learning opportunities that are not based in the Podiatry clinical setting. This may include:

Care Home visits

Diabetic foot team

MSK

Vascular Teams

Orthotics

What we do in Podiatry

The Podiatry Service provides assessment, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions affecting the feet and lower limbs. Podiatry is a rewarding career with many different areas of specialism.

We provide treatment to:

People with long term conditions such as vascular disease, amputees, connective tissue disorders, stroke, Parkinson’s disease and diabetes.

People with multiple and complex needs e.g. dementia, falls

People with biomechanical problems e.g. gait /postural problems

People requiring nail surgery

People presenting with acute foot and ankle problems and conditions.

We aim to:

Prevent unnecessary disability resulting from foot disease.

Prevent unnecessary hospital admissions

Reduce amputation rates

Enable early discharge home from hospital

Facilitate self-management of long term conditions

Maximise mobility and ability of people to remain in their own homes

Our service also includes:

Symptomatic biomechanics – biomechanical assessment and gait analysis

In growing toe nail with/without infection – nail surgery

High Risk Management of Lower Limb including diabetics, Rheumatoid patients, patients with poor circulation, patients with tissue viability problems

Wound care

Vascular screening

Dermatological conditions

Patients who have had previous ulceration / amputation for foot health monitoring

Patients who have severe recurrent lesions, have tried all treatments without success and require ongoing regular visits to maintain foot health – if they are at risk of ulceration

Patient foot health education

Diabetes - We work closely with the diabetic podiatrists at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust as we believe a joint approach achieves the best outcome for patients.