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Standards for the Foot Health Workforce

(up to HCPC Registered Podiatrists)





Foreword

In 2019, working in conjunction with Health Education England, we gathered as a Consortium of Foot Health Leaders to address the problem of falling recruitment numbers on traditional routes into podiatry.

The priority of the Consortium has been to develop a foot health career ladder and educational resources that will support and increase the number of podiatrists and podiatry support workers in the NHS.

The work of the Consortium has enabled a better understanding of the Workforce that provides foot care, with the aim of optimising this workforce for the benefit of those who use the services of any health practitioner, in England, who work in this arena.

These Standards for the Foot Health Workforce are the result of more than a year's work to increase the supply of podiatrists in the NHS. We also want to ensure that the NHS recognises the knowledge and skills of the wider foot care support workforce.

The Standards are intended to support the NHS in utilising the full skills mix of the foot health workforce to meet demand, by creating a clear understanding of the foot care treatments that foot health practitioners and the podiatry support workforce can safely perform. The needs and safety of patients is central to this work.



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HEE consulted on draft standards between November 2020 and February 2021. We are enormously grateful to all those who responded. We have used this feedback to further refine the Standards which are now published in this document. The consultation feedback was also used to inform their implementation.

These Standards are a considerable achievement, and we would like to thank all those who have contributed so valuably to this work.

Yours sincerely

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- 1.** In order to facilitate greater skill mix within the NHS footcare workforce, Health Education England (HEE) has commissioned the development of **threshold clinical and education standards** that all newly qualified foot health practitioners (FHPs), foot care assistants (FCAs) and assistant practitioners in podiatry (APs) should meet.
- 2.** The clinical and education standards provide a clear understanding of the footcare treatments these practitioners are trained to provide upon qualification. The standards are threshold and set out what a newly qualified practitioner can safely provide for their patients in the NHS. It is recognised that as individual practitioners gain experience and undertake additional qualifications, their role boundaries and scope of practice may increase.
- 3.** Common themes underpin the clinical practice of all levels of practitioner. These include: health and wellbeing; person centred care, treatment, and support; communication; team working; personal, people and quality improvement; health, safety and security; duty of care and candour; safeguarding; equality and diversity; and basic life support.

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4. Educational standards are articulated at Levels 3, 4 and 5 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

5. The determination of role boundaries and scope of practice has been informed by the American Society of Anaesthesiologists Physical Status Classification System.

Intended Audience

- NHS Managers
- Education Providers
- Existing Practitioners
- Professional Bodies
- Health Regulators
- Patient Representative Bodies

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SECTION i:

Purpose and Context

Purpose

1. This document is designed to delineate the requisite standards for those working as health care professionals/practitioners within the arena of foot health below the level of HCPC registered podiatrists. It is understood that within this space may operate individuals and organisations who provide services that have some overlap but are primarily cosmetic in nature. This document is not designed to address the educational standards within cosmetic foot health and the distinction between them is taken from the following statement made by The World Health Organization.

“Health care professionals maintain health in humans through the application of the principles and procedures of evidence-based medicine and caring. Health care professionals study, diagnose, treat and prevent human illness, injury and other physical and mental impairments in accordance with the needs of the populations they serve. They advise on or apply preventive and curative measures, and promote health with the ultimate goal of meeting the health needs and expectations of individuals and populations, and improving population health outcomes. They also conduct research and improve or develop concepts, theories and operational methods to advance evidence-based health care. Their duties may include the supervision of other health workers”.

World Health Organization, 2013. Transforming and scaling up health care professionals’ education and training: World Health Organization guidelines 2013.

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Purpose

2. In order to facilitate greater skill mix within the NHS footcare workforce, Health Education England (HEE) has commissioned work to develop **threshold clinical and education standards** for the newly qualified clinical foot health workforce including FHPs, FCAs and APs in podiatry and other support worker roles that contribute to the foot health workforce; this work does not include registered podiatrists as their standards are defined by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Later work will further explore articulation with existing pre-registration training routes for podiatrists.
3. The clinical and education standards provide a clear understanding of the footcare treatments these practitioners are trained to provide upon qualification. The standards are threshold and set out what a newly qualified practitioner can safely provide for their patients in the NHS. It is recognised that as individual practitioners gain experience and undertake additional qualifications, their role boundaries and scope of practice may increase, and the skills set out in this document are threshold.

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Purpose

4. The clinical standards have been developed using the **Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education framework** and the **Podiatrist Standard**. They have been informed by relevant **National Occupational Standards**. The educational standards have been informed by the **Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)** and the **Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)**.
5. When implementing these standards, a clear process of recognition of standards achieved through their training will need to be developed for existing FHPs. Additionally, there are a number of FHP training providers and care will need to be taken to ensure that new learners are always clear about the standards associated with their chosen programme of study. This will ensure learners are always able to make a fully informed decision about which provider they choose to study with.

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- 6. **NHS support workers such as FCAs, podiatry assistants and Senior Healthcare Support Workers (SHCSWs)** are employed in the NHS working under the supervision of a regulated healthcare practitioner and are educated to Level 3 (A level equivalent)
- 7. **FHPs** can be educated to academic level 3 or level 4 (recognised as completing the equivalent of half of the first year of an undergraduate programme). FHP training enables practitioners to work on a wide range of less complex and less invasive procedures than podiatrists, in addition to

observing patients' general foot health; some training programmes have not been accredited to a particular educational level. Some of the FHP training programmes require no practical training, others require two-weeks of assessed practical training. In addition, some FHPs are registered on an accredited register recognised by the Professional Standards Authority, but this is not a mandatory requirement to treat patients. Currently, FHPs are not employed by the NHS but work in independent practice, often single handed and many work in domiciliary settings.

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8. To increase the skill mix of the foot health workforce in the NHS, academic level 5 foundation degree programmes for **APs** in podiatry have been introduced. These practitioners undertake a two-year full-time foundation degree that can articulate with BSc (Hons) Podiatry degrees that lead to HCPC registration. Assistant practitioners in podiatry provide a wide range of treatments as set out in the standards set out below. In addition, in the NHS assistant

practitioners undertake wound re-dressings but not management of patients with severe systemic disease under the delegation of a registered podiatrist and according to local protocols. These treatments can only be provided in clinical contexts where support can be immediately provided by a registered podiatrist and therefore, they have not been specified within these standards.

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9. Academic level and NHS AfC banding:

The standards have been written to reflect the academic level of educational attainment required to carry out the activity described in the Standards at level 3, 4 and 5. In England academic levels range from level 1 – equivalent to GCSE – to level 8 – doctoral level study¹. The agenda for change (AfC) pay bands start at band 1 and rise to band 9. There is un-equal alignment between academic levels and AfC bands. The table on the right provides examples of AfC role banding and examples of the level and route that may have been taken to complete the qualification. It is particularly important to recognise that a level 5 qualified Assistant Practitioner has no equivalence to a Band 5 Podiatrist.

Academic level	Example Job Role	Typical AfC band	Example study route
3	SHCSW/FCA	3	Advanced apprenticeship/ A level/ access to higher education
5	Assistant Practitioner	4	Foundation degree/ HND/ diploma in higher education (dip HE)
6	Podiatrist	5	Degree apprenticeship, BSc (hons).

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

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10. Podiatrists are educated to academic Level 6 (BSc) and some undertake a pre-registration masters at Level 7, both include a minimum of 1000 hours of clinical practice. On qualification podiatrists are employed at typically Band 5 on the AfC banding. Podiatrists are healthcare professionals who have been trained to diagnose and treat complex conditions of the feet and lower limbs. They also prevent and correct deformity, keep people mobile and active, relieve pain and treat infections. Podiatrists can diagnose conditions and administer and supply and prescribe medication; they work in the NHS and in independent

practice. The HCPC requires them to engage in processes that check on their CPD and professional development as a condition for their continued registration. Since 2002 newly qualified podiatrists are qualified in prescription only medicines – Administration (POM-A) and prescription only medicines - Sale/Supply (POM-S). Many go on to gain post-graduate qualifications in Supplementary Prescribing (SP) and Independent Prescribing (IP). In 2019 the HCPC introduced separate annotation for podiatric surgeons to provide appropriate regulation for their defined and increased scope of practice.



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11. The standards use the phrase 'podiatrist/registered health care professional'. This recognises the range of different ways in which the NHS delivers foot health treatments. In many cases, services will be podiatrist-led, with the podiatrist providing supervision (direct or indirect) of unregulated support staff and holding overall responsibility for a patient's treatment. In other services which deliver foot health

alongside other treatments, such as those led by medical consultants, this role may be carried out by another appropriately qualified registered healthcare professional - for example, a medical practitioner or physiotherapist. However, the support worker should be responsible to a podiatrist within a wider podiatry service for their clinical and professional support.

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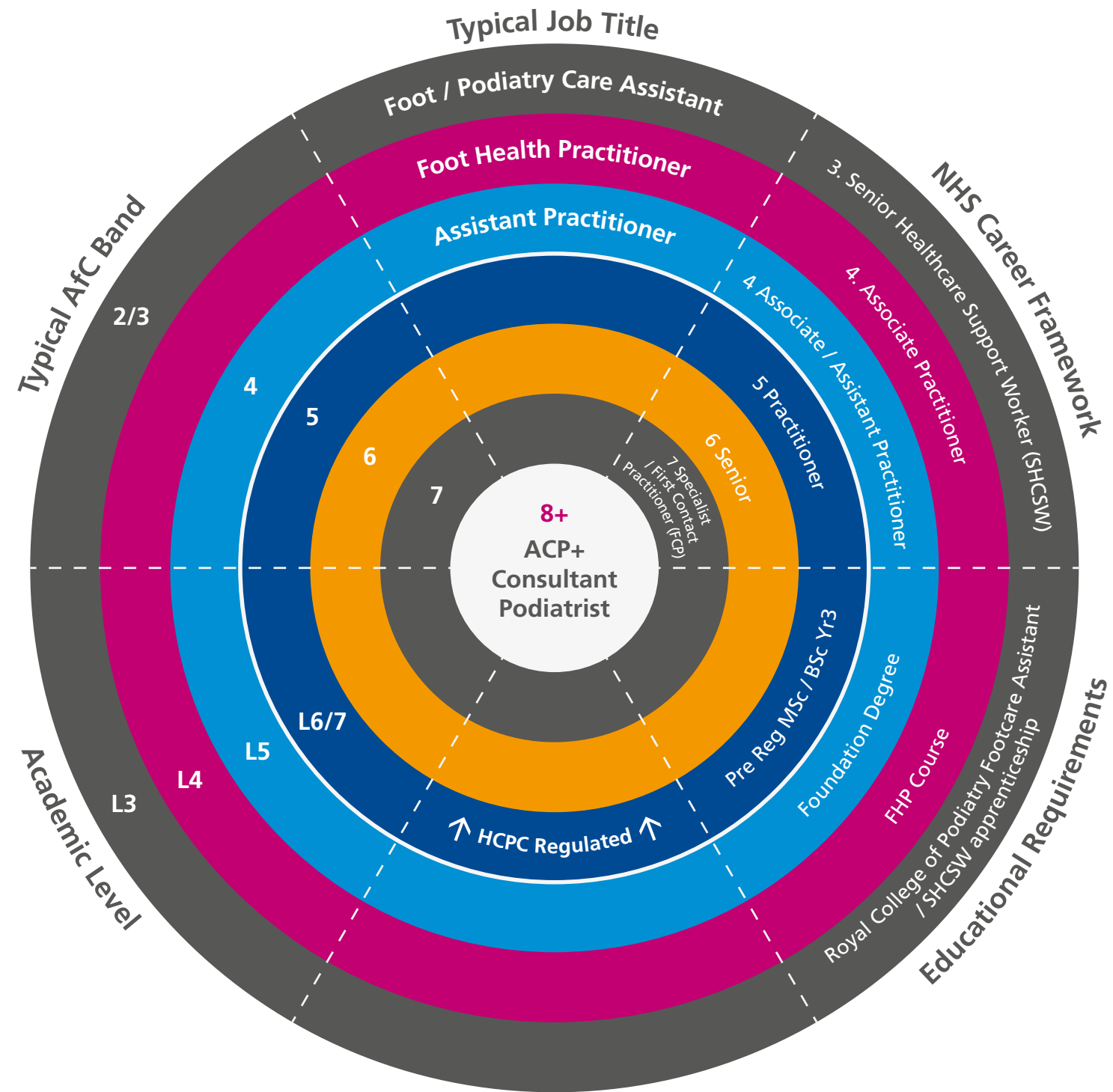
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Clinical Standards: Common Themes

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1. Health and wellbeing	demonstrate what it means in practice to promote and provide person centred care, treatment and support by obtaining valid consent, and carrying out risk assessments	<p>why it is important to gain informed consent</p> <p>how to undertake risk assessment in enabling a person-centred approach</p> <p>why it is important to promote person centred care, treatment and support</p>
	work in partnership with the patient, their carer, families and the wider health and social care team	work in partnership with the patient, their carer, families and the wider health and social care team
	demonstrate clinical effectiveness, safety and a good experience for the patient	<p>why safety and clinical effectiveness are important</p> <p>the importance of managing relationships and boundaries with service users</p>
	promote the impact of effective health promotion, patient empowerment, and healthy lifestyles	the key role that health promotion and healthy lifestyle choices have in foot health, mobility and wellbeing



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Clinical Standards: Common Themes

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2. Person centred care, treatment and support	gather evidence to assist in obtaining or updating a patient history, review health-related data and information	the types of information you need to collate when obtaining a patient history, appropriate ways to record and share it
	provide appropriate examinations of patients within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the range of examinations needed to underpin the provision of effective foot health interventions including identification and referral of high-risk patients according to local protocols
	provide care for patients that follows a treatment plan that has been developed or approved by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional	the requirement to provide safe and effective care in the context of an approved treatment plan
	undertake defined clinical or therapeutic interventions incorporating relevant legislation and guidance within your role boundaries and scope of practice, as appropriately delegated by your supervisor	how to provide safe foot care within your role boundaries and scope of practice understand the ethical and legal boundaries of your role and scope of practice



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Clinical Standards: Common Themes

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2. Person centred care, treatment and support	implement interventions in line with current evidence, taking action relative to a patient's health and care needs	take a professional responsibility for keeping up to date with current evidence why it's important to provide treatment that is tailored to patient health and care needs
	undertake foot health screening as part of an assessment of a patient's healthcare status. Report changes to your supervisor	the role of baseline measurements and review to underpin a treatment plan aligned to the health and social care needs of the patient



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Clinical Standards: Common Themes

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3. Communication	demonstrate and promote effective communication using a range of techniques	<p>why it is important to promote effective communication at work</p> <p>how to communicate with people who have specific language needs or wishes</p>
	communicate effectively and ethically with and about patients, their representatives and carers, supervisor and other health and social care professionals, observing confidentiality and consent	<p>how to reduce communication problems and respond to complaints; techniques for challenging situations, local guidelines for dealing with abusive behaviour</p> <p>a range of methods of communicating with patients across the age range</p> <p>how to check you have been understood.</p> <p>barriers to communication and a range of ways to overcome them</p> <p>how verbal and non-verbal communication may relate to a patient's condition</p>
	demonstrate written and verbal effectiveness and accurate record keeping	the importance of accurate communication, and use of recognised clinical abbreviations, particularly in patient records



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Clinical Standards: Common Themes

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3. Communication	demonstrate appropriate language and pathway for referral writing/communication with a range of professionals	how to communicate clearly and effectively to a range of healthcare professionals in order to secure optimal clinical outcomes for patients
	handle information (record, report and store information) in line with local and national policies, keep information confidential and support others to do so; take part in clinical review of caseloads	Legislation including GDPR, policies and local ways of working about handling information; why it is important to record and store information securely and confidentially and support others to do so; e-safety; the audit process and how it relates to your role

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4. Team working	Promote effective inter-professional and multi-disciplinary team working with peers, colleagues and staff from other agencies and provide appropriate leadership within the scope of your role manage your caseload safely and effectively through referral and triage processes both through accepting patients from senior clinicians and referring patients on to senior clinicians when needed	how to maintain a range of complex professional relationships that underpin effective patient care

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Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5. Personal, people and quality improvement	demonstrate ethical practice and professionalism	the ethical and legal frameworks that underpin your practice including the Code of Conduct for Healthcare Support Workers and Adult Social Care Workers in England (2013)
	act within the limits of your role boundaries and scope of practice and authority referring on as necessary with appropriate public liability and malpractice insurance	<p>your responsibilities and duties; the limits of your role boundaries and scope of practice and authority</p> <p>the values of your organisation/regulator/professional body</p> <p>legislation, standards, policies, liability insurance protocols you should adhere to</p> <p>why it is important to work in the best interests of patients and in ways agreed by your employer</p>
	escalate concerns signposting to your supervisor as necessary	when you need to signpost concerns to your supervisor in order to ensure optimal patient care



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Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5. Personal, people and quality improvement	be proactive in your own development, willing to commit to lifelong learning by engaging with critical colleague support, the use of a professional portfolio, personal development planning, personal reflection and continuous improvement	<p>the central importance of critical colleague support in your professional development</p> <p>the consequences of your actions, attitude and behaviour</p> <p>how to assess and reflect upon your own capabilities and limitations</p> <p>how to engage with lifelong learning in order to maintain and enhance your practice, continually practising within your scope</p>
	manage your own time, resources and personal behaviour	<p>the importance of working well in the context of your own health, wellbeing, and resilience</p> <p>understand and act accordingly when your own health may impact on your ability to practise safely and effectively</p>
	escalate concerns signposting to your supervisor as necessary	when you need to signpost concerns to your supervisor in order to ensure optimal patient care



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Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5. Personal, people and quality improvement	act as a role model; mentor peers; provide leadership appropriate to your role; deliver training through demonstration and instruction in line with your role boundaries and scope of practice	<p>behaviours expected from a role model; the principles of training and mentoring</p> <p>the importance of gathering and responding where appropriate to service user feedback</p> <p>ways to identify and escalate opportunities to provide a better or more effective service</p>

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6. Health, safety and security	maintain a safe and healthy working environment, take appropriate action in response to incidents or emergencies, following relevant legislation and any local guidelines	<p>how to promote and manage health and safety at work; what to do in situations that could cause harm</p> <p>how to handle equipment, hazardous materials</p> <p>waste management</p>



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Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6. Health, safety and security	undertake risk assessments in line with your role boundaries and scope of practice	<p>understand and follow the Health and Safety at Work Act including the meaning of risk /risk assessment</p> <p>how to recognise risk or hazards, undertake risk assessment, escalate where appropriate, operate safe systems of work</p>
	prepare the clinical area, including in a domiciliary situation, ensuring the environment where clinical treatment is undertaken does not compromise patient safety unnecessarily, using a range of techniques for infection prevention and control, eg. waste management, spillage, hand washing, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<p>the importance of a clean clinical environment</p> <p>legislation, policies and local ways of working for the prevention of infection</p> <p>personal hygiene, handwashing</p> <p>the appropriate and correct use of PPE: gloves, aprons, masks</p>
	undertake mandatory training such as basic life support, GDPR, safeguarding as appropriate to your role	the role of mandatory training in ensuring you discharge your professional responsibilities appropriately



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Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6. Health, safety and security	be able to safely use an autoclave and ultrasonic cleaners	understand instrument sterilisation principals
	use equipment which has been sterilised or single use equipment packs in accordance with patient safety and plan of care	how infections start and spread how to clean, decontaminate and sterilise equipment and dispose of safely
	move and position patients, equipment and other items safely, protecting yourself, patients and carers	move and position people, equipment or other objects safely in line with health and safety legislation and agreed ways of working
	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	management of sharps and exposure incidents immunisation for health care professionals
	support the safeguarding of patients	guidance and legislation relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and how to raise concerns



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Clinical Standards: Common Themes

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
7. Duty of care and candour, safeguarding, equality and diversity	follow the principles for equality, diversity and inclusion	legislation, policies and local ways of working about duty of care, candour, raising concerns, safeguarding/ protection from abuse, diversity, equality and inclusion - what they mean, why they are important, how to promote them to others
	implement a duty of care and candour	how discrimination can happen how to deal with conflicts between a person's rights and understand your role under duty of candour
	safeguard and protect adults and children; promote the principles to others	the signs of abuse, what to do if you suspect it, how to reduce the chances of abuse as much as possible

Common Themes	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
8. Basic life support	recognise and manage common medical emergencies provide first aid	the types of medical emergency and first aid that may arise and ways to address them

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Academic Level 3 Educational Standards

	The FHP/FCA must always:
Key and Transferable skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have a commitment to quality and care for patients and their relatives ensuring patient-outcomes are maximised2. Adhere to relevant professional standards for conduct and ethics, such as those provided by professional bodies3. Apply problem-solving skills in practice settings4. Promote equality of opportunity5. Be open and honest with individuals choosing the most appropriate way of communicating6. Respect confidentiality and personal information about patients and others7. Work closely and collaboratively in an open/honest and supportive way, acting in the best interest of patients and others8. Take a personal responsibility for the quality of care they provide within their own role boundaries and scope of practice9. Maintain and further develop own skills and knowledge through reflective practice and recognised continued professional development activities within a structured and managed framework

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Academic Level 3 Educational Standards

	The FHP/FCA will be able to:
Practical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10. Provide and promote holistic patient/person-centred care and support, demonstrating duty of care and safeguarding of individuals11. Demonstrate competence in a range of relevant technical and administrative procedures relevant to their role boundaries and scope of practice12. Take a detailed patient history13. Follow a stepwise and holistic approach to patient assessment14. Safely and effectively provide a defined range of footcare interventions that fall within their own role boundaries and scope of practice15. Communicate clinical findings accurately and reliably to patients, carers and health care professionals, using structured protocols and maintain accurate records16. Appropriately, refer patients to members of the wider healthcare team in order to maximise outcomes for patients17. Maintain a safe clinical environment in clinical and domiciliary settings

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Academic Level 3 Educational Standards

	The FHP/FCA will know and understand:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">18. The basic structure and function of the healthy foot and lower limb19. The common disorders affecting skin and nails of the foot and lower limb20. The different forms of communication used with patients, carers and the wider healthcare team21. Infection control and how to prevent cross-infection and the importance of health and safety22. The legal and ethical frameworks in which patient care is provided

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Clinical Domains

	Key			
ASA Physical Status Classification*	ASA1	ASA2	ASA3	ASA4
Modified ASA Definitions	Healthy, Non-smoker, minimal alcohol use, no medical history which will compromise treatment of the foot e.g. Healthy Patient	Mild systemic disease with no evidence of pathology or with pathology that is controlled by medication – no impact on foot health status or direct impact upon the treatment of limb and foot e.g. Non-Compromised patient	Substantial systemic disease that directly impacts upon the treatment of the limb and foot e.g. Medically Compromised Patient	Multiple Pathology and co morbidity that directly impact on the foot and its treatment e.g. Severe Systemic Disease

*<https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/asa-physical-status-classification-system>

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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	*	*	*	*	*	*
1.2 Health check: Non compromised patient			*	*	*	*
1.3 Health check: Medically compromised patient e.g. Ankle Brachial Pressure Index and Toe Brachial Pressure index				*	*	*
1.4 Health check: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. Pressure ulcer prevention, Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool, Waterlow, BP, Atrial Fibrillation screen				*	*	*
1.5 Interpretation of findings and triage					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	*	*	*	*	*	*
2.2 Nail and skin care: Healthy Patient eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**			*	*	*	*
2.3 Nail and skin care: Non compromised patient eg. scalpel debridement of corns and callus			*	*	*	*
2.4 Nail and skin care: Medically compromised patient (such as patient with stable non limb threatening peripheral arterial disease) eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**				*	*	*
2.5 Nail and skin care: Severe Systemic Disease including polypharmacy of steroids, anti-coagulants, bio-logics, etc					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg blisters	*	*	*	*	*	*
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient including children eg. Athletes Foot			*	*	*	*
3.3 Dermatology: Medically compromised patient e.g. Management of skin conditions in patients with diabetes having glucose/glycaemic variability				*	*	*
3.4 Dermatology: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. Hyperkeratosis/fungal infection in PAD and diabetes				*	*	*
3.5 Procedures under LA: Skin and nails					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. Foot health advice	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. Padding and strapping			*	*	*	*
4.3 MSK: Medically compromised patient e.g. MSK advice for a RA patient with RA					*	*
4.4 MSK: Biomechanics (sports/paeds etc)					*	*
4.5 MSK: POMS					*	*
4.6 MSK: Severe Systemic Disease					*	*
4.7 MSK: All Patients - Orthoses fitting e.g. Accommodative and off the shelf prefabricated orthoses	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.8 Procedures under LA: Sub cutaneous					*	*
4.9 Procedures under LA: Bone						*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. Post op nail surgery dressing	*	*	*	*	*	*
5.2 Wound management: Non compromised patient eg. Dressing for infected corn			*	*	*	*
5.3 Wound management: Medically compromised patient eg. redressing of foot ulceration				*	*	*
5.4 Wound management: Severe Systemic Disease eg. including debridement of Ulcers					*	*
5.5 Wound management: POMs					*	*
5.6 Procedures under LA: Sub cutaneous e.g. electrotherapy					*	*
5.7 Procedures under LA: Bone						*
6.0 Assisting in theatre	*	*	*	*	*	*

** J. Potter, M.J. Potter Effect of callus removal on peak plantar pressures (2000) The Foot 10, 23-26

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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	communicate with patients and carers throughout the discussion and examination in a manner which is appropriate to them and which encourages an open exchange of views and information	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in order to obtain all relevant information through the taking of a systematic history within your role boundaries and scope of practice
	confirm that the patient understands the purpose and nature of any examinations which need to be carried out, and gives consent	how to gain informed consent and why this is essential for safe and effective care
	review the patient's history since their last attendance	the importance of continuous review of a patient's foot health including their broader health and social care needs within your role boundaries and scope of practice
	gather information on subjective symptoms through discussion with the patient	how to gather a patient history in a systematic and clear way using open questioning
	identify the main factors that are likely to limit the patient's ability to care for their feet	what might prevent self-care and how to encourage patients to disclose this



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	examine the patient’s footwear and assess its suitability for foot type and risk status	the importance of appropriate footwear in the maintenance of good foot health
	conduct an examination of the foot including key bony landmarks	basic foot anatomy including bones and joints, pulse points and normal skin and nails
	carry out tests for peripheral arterial disease by palpating pedal pulses and when appropriate using a Doppler	how to carry out tests for arterial function and record your findings using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	carry out tests for peripheral sensory neuropathy using appropriate tools	how to carry out tests for neurological function and record your findings using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	provide the results of the examination with the patient and carer in an appropriate manner, and at a suitable level and pace	how to communicate your findings and ongoing advice to patients and carers using language that is accessible to them
	offer information on foot care in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the importance of reinforcing information for patients to refer to once they get home

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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	make a record of the examination and communicate findings to the patient, carer and where appropriate, your supervisor	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	agree when the patient will next attend in accordance with their treatment plan, leaving an interval appropriate to the risks you have identified	the need to follow accurately the treatment plan previously agreed
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> Identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition
	conduct an appropriate foot examination and identify any signs of deterioration, infection or abnormality	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	in accordance with local protocols and your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the management and treatment protocol to the patient and or carer; include the benefits and risks, along with any potential side effects and accurately answer any questions, at a pace and level which is appropriate to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	the need for patients and carers to understand the treatment plan to maximise concordance, maintaining oversight of foot health over time, including any changes that do not relate to the specific presenting condition
	seek advice and support from an appropriate source such as your supervisor when the needs of the patient and the complexity of the case are beyond your role boundaries and scope of practice or capability	the wider members of the healthcare team such as your supervisor to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	follow an agreed treatment plan / process and record any modifications with reasons for variance	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes the need to conduct patient care within a formal framework set out in an explicit treatment plan that is agreed with the patient, and if appropriate your supervisor
	prepare the patient’s feet in a manner consistent with the care to be provided	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety
	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	use nail clippers and cut and file healthy toenails straight across and file the cut edge so that the nail is smooth in a manner which is consistent with patient's plan of care, condition and safety	how to safely shorten the toenail, understanding the importance of maintaining an appropriate length and straight, smooth edge
	where appropriate use a nail drill to reduce the thickness of the toenails	how to safely employ a nail drill to reduce thickness, ensuring no damage to surrounding soft tissue
	apply medicaments and dressings according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient's condition choosing from those available to you	the indications and contra-indications of a range of topical medicaments and dressings and how to apply them in order to maximise their effectiveness
	document the treatment provided in line with the care plan that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	recognise and escalate appropriately to your supervisor any nail and skin pathologies or trauma related nail and skin problems	your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the wider members of the healthcare team to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support
	advise your patient on toenail self-care	how to communicate detailed and specific advice on self-care
	record any modifications which are made to the agreed treatment process and document the reasons for the variance	the need to provide a detailed record of any changes to the treatment plan, including the reasons behind these, and if it falls out with the agreed role boundaries and scope of practice to make onward referral
	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	the legal requirements for the safe disposal of clinical waste and your legal obligations, including any local health and safety guidelines



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> in accordance with local protocols and your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the management and treatment protocol to the patient and or carer; include the benefits and risks, along with any potential side effects and accurately answer any questions, at a pace and level which is appropriate to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes
	identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice, referring to another member of the healthcare team if not	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition using national markers for skin cancer lesions
	conduct an examination of the presenting complaint and the feet	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition using national markers for skin cancer lesions
	observe any lesions for change in appearance and if a deterioration escalate to a podiatrist / registered health care professional:	the need to maintain oversight of foot health over time, including any changes that do not relate to the specific presenting condition and to escalate if there is a deterioration
	prepare the patient’s feet in a manner consistent with the agreed care to be provided and identify any signs of deterioration, infection or abnormality	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety
	within your role boundaries and scope of practice, use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk, discomfort and injury to patient and worker, and in accordance with health and safety guidelines	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit
	carry out the treatments, apply medicaments and dressings: at an appropriate time according to the patients agreed treatment plan, use appropriate techniques in line with manufacturer’s instructions and in manner which optimises the patient’s comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient’s condition choosing from those available to you	relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation the indications and contra-indications of a range of topical medicaments and dressings and how to apply them in order to maximise their effectiveness



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	seek advice and support from a podiatrist/registered health care professional when the needs of the patient and the complexity of the case are beyond your role boundaries and scope of practice and capability	your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the wider members of the healthcare team to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support
	recognise and report any signs of infection or deterioration in the patient's condition to your supervisor without delay	the signs of infection the need for urgent intervention from a podiatrist/registered health care professional, your supervisor when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	record any modifications which are made to the agreed treatment process and document the reasons for the variance	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	the legal requirements for the safe disposal of clinical waste and your legal obligations, including any local health and safety guidelines



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice	<p><i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> in accordance with local protocols and your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the management and treatment protocol to the patient and or carer; include the benefits and risks, along with any potential side effects and accurately answer any questions, at a pace and level which is appropriate to their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	<p>how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes</p>
	<p>check that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment choices being offered, the implications of this choice and any potential side effects together with their management</p>	<p>the importance of consent being secured on the explicit basis that the patient fully understands the treatment options and their consequences</p>



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Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice	identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition
	conduct an appropriate foot examination	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition
	document a treatment plan that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	the need to conduct patient care within a formal framework set out in an explicit treatment plan that is agreed with the patient, and if appropriate your supervisor
	provide specific advice focusing on footwear, lifestyle, exercise type and intensity	the role that footwear and exercise type and intensity have on musculoskeletal conditions affecting the foot



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Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.7 MSK: All Patients - Orthoses fitting eg. Accommodative and off the shelf prefabricated orthoses	issue orthotics ensuring a good fit in the shoe	how to adjust an insole/orthosis to a shoe to ensure a comfortable fit for the patient
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> explain to the patient the treatment plan recommended by the registered professional, checking that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment and any self-management required	dressing care is delegated by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional as part of an overall treatment plan be able to understand the phases of wound healing, signs of infection and dressing selection



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Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	take a detailed history about the treatment to date	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition the importance of up to date clinical information in determining whether referral for revision of the agreed treatment plan is required the need for urgent intervention from your supervisor or alternative health care professional when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	conduct an appropriate foot examination, checking carefully for signs of changes to wound and or escalating infection recognising the stages of skin breakdown	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires intervention from your supervisor or alternative health care professional whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	recognise and report any signs of infection or deterioration in the patient's condition to your supervisor or alternative health care professional without delay	the need for urgent intervention from a podiatrist/registered health care professional when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	document the treatment that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	the need for detailed contemporaneous records to meet legal obligations
Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	prepare the pre-surgical and surgical clinical environments, including local anaesthesia and surgical packs, according to local protocols and health and safety requirements	local health and safety guidelines, where materials are stored and how to prepare the clinical area(s)
	prepare the patient according to local protocols and health and safety requirements	local protocols and how to use them
	prior to any treatment ensure all relevant consents have been signed, checking with the patient that nothing has changed, and they understand the consent they have given	the medicolegal requirements for informed consent including joint parental consent and Gillick competency where appropriate, and for this to be checked immediately prior to surgery



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	if the patient is a child, agree in advance with the patient and their parent how they will support the patient throughout the procedure and importantly where they need to position themselves to ensure patient safety throughout	the need to ensure children are fully supported throughout the procedure whilst also maintaining a safe clinical environment
	check that the patient will be able to return home safely following the surgery	the importance of ensuring minimal trauma in the immediate post-operative phase
	check the patient will be able to follow the post-surgical dressing protocol that follows the surgery, including ensuring they have appropriate footwear for post- surgical discharge	the critical importance of full patient involvement in managing their wound
	undertake pre-surgical tests including pulse, O2 saturation, blood pressure	how to undertake pre-surgical tests and document them accurately
	prepare the instrumentation for the administration of local anaesthesia support the podiatrist/registered health care professional by handling any medicines required once they have been prepared	what equipment is needed for the safe administration of local anaesthesia



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	position the patient for the administration of local anaesthesia to minimise patient discomfort	how to maintain patient comfort and safety during local anaesthesia
	reassure the patient during anaesthesia and throughout the procedure, maintaining a relaxed but professional environment	the importance of your role in maintaining patient well-being during surgery
	monitor the patient throughout, escalating any concerns to the registered professional	how to check on the patient and what changes you need to escalate to colleagues
	(if necessary) safely move the patient to the operating area and position in accordance with local protocols	how to safely move the patient within the clinical area, if this is needed
	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional in gloving and gowning, using a strict no-touch protocol	how to support the podiatrist/registered health care professional undertaking the surgery in donning sterile gown and gloves



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	assist the podiatrist/registered health care professional in draping the surgical area	how to support the podiatrist/registered health care professional undertaking the surgery in draping the surgical area without compromising the sterile field
	using a strict no-touch protocol provide additional items as required by the podiatrist/registered health care professional e.g. dressings, additional instrumentation	how to provide additional materials as required using strict no touch protocols
	keep a strict note of the time used for a range of activities eg tourniquet application, application of caustic	the importance of monitoring the time taken for critical interventions for patient safety
	if necessary, support the podiatrist/registered health care professional in the application of urgent treatment if there is a clinical emergency	how to administer basic life support and how to summon help
	support the patient, and their carer, during the immediate post-operative phase	how to sensitively meet the needs of patients and carers



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Academic Level 3 Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	following the surgery, check on any dressings for any sign of haemorrhage and if necessary, alert the registered professional	what to look for when checking a post-surgical dressing
	support the patient in their preparations to leave the clinical area, ensuring they have understood the post-surgical advice, the indications for raising a concern prior to their first post-surgical appointment, how to make an emergency appointment	what is needed from the patient on the immediate post-surgical days and the importance of checking that they know how to obtain emergency care if needed
	ensure the patient has written post-surgical advice and a follow up appointment	the need for clear written information to back up any verbal advice as patients will rely on this
	using local protocols safely restore the clinical area and arrange for the removal of soiled instrumentation and drapes and disposal of single use items	local health and safety protocols including the safe disposal of soiled materials and of sharps



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Academic Level 4 Educational Standards

	The FHP must always:
Key and Transferable skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have a commitment to quality and care for patients and carers ensuring patient-outcomes are maximised2. Adhere to relevant professional standards for conduct and ethics, such as those provided by professional bodies3. Apply problem-solving skills in practice settings taking account of relevant social, cultural, psychological and ethical issues4. Promote equality of opportunity and respect diversity of patients, carers and the wider healthcare team5. Be open and honest with individuals choosing the most appropriate way of communicating6. Respect confidentiality and personal information about patients and others7. Work closely and collaboratively in an open/honest and supportive way, acting in the best interest of patients and others8. Take a personal responsibility for the quality of care they provide within their own role boundaries and scope of practice9. Maintain and further develop own skills and knowledge through reflective practice and recognised continued professional development activities within a structured and managed framework

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Academic Level 4 Educational Standards

	The FHP will be able to:
Practical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10. Provide and promote holistic patient/person-centred care and support, demonstrating duty of care and safeguarding of individuals11. Demonstrate competence in a range of relevant technical and administrative procedures relevant to their role boundaries and scope of practice12. Take a relevant patient history13. Follow a stepwise and holistic approach to patient assessment, undertaking relevant physiological measurements using appropriate equipment in a safe and effective manner14. Safely and effectively provide a range of footcare interventions that fall within their own role boundaries and scope of practice15. Communicate clinical findings accurately and reliably to patients, carers and health care professionals, using structured protocols16. Provide patients with information about how to maintain their foot health17. Maintain accurate and detailed patient records about all aspects of a patient's history assessment, treatment and ongoing advice18. Appropriately, refer patients to members of the wider healthcare team in order to maximise outcomes for patients19. Maintain a safe clinical environment in clinical and domiciliary settings

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Academic Level 4 Educational Standards

	The FHP will know and understand:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">20. How to integrate theory and practice in the context of health and social care utilising information from a wide variety of sources21. The basic structure and function of the healthy foot and lower limb22. The common localised and systemic health conditions that affect the foot and lower limb23. The common disorders affecting skin and nails of the foot and lower limb24. The different forms of communication used with patients, carers and the wider healthcare team25. The concepts that underpin infection control and how to prevent cross-infection and the importance of health and safety26. How to evaluate the effectiveness of the care provided27. How to use clinical guidance to inform patient care28. The legal and ethical frameworks in which patient care is provided29. How to present basic qualitative and quantitative data in patient notes and when communicating with your supervisor*

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Clinical Domains

Key				
ASA Physical Status Classification*	ASA1	ASA2	ASA3	ASA4
Modified ASA Definitions	Healthy, Non-smoker, minimal alcohol use, no medical history which will compromise treatment of the foot e.g. Healthy Patient	Mild systemic disease with no evidence of pathology or with pathology that is controlled by medication – no impact on foot health status or direct impact upon the treatment of limb and foot e.g. Non-Compromised patient	Substantial systemic disease that directly impacts upon the treatment of the limb and foot e.g. Medically Compromised Patient	Multiple Pathology and co morbidity that directly impact on the foot and its treatment e.g. Severe Systemic Disease

*<https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/asa-physical-status-classification-system>

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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	*	*	*	*	*	*
1.2 Health check: Non compromised patient			*	*	*	*
1.3 Health check: Medically compromised patient e.g. Ankle Brachial Pressure Index and Toe Brachial Pressure index				*	*	*
1.4 Health check: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. Pressure ulcer prevention, Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool, Waterlow, BP, Atrial Fibrillation screen				*	*	*
1.5 Interpretation of findings and triage					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	*	*	*	*	*	*
2.2 Nail and skin care: Healthy Patient eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**			*	*	*	*
2.3 Nail and skin care: Non compromised patient eg. scalpel debridement of corns and callus			*	*	*	*
2.4 Nail and skin care: Medically compromised patient (such as patient with stable non limb threatening peripheral arterial disease) eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**				*	*	*
2.5 Nail and skin care: Severe Systemic Disease including polypharmacy of steroids, anti-coagulants, bio-logics, etc					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg blisters,	*	*	*	*	*	*
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient including children eg. Athletes Foot			*	*	*	*
3.3 Dermatology: Medically compromised patient e.g. Management of skin conditions in patients with diabetes having glucose/glycaemic variability				*	*	*
3.4 Dermatology: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. Hyperkeratosis/fungal infection in PAD and diabetes				*	*	*
3.5 Procedures under LA: Skin and nails					*	*



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	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. Foot health advice	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. Padding and strapping			*	*	*	*
4.3 MSK: Medically compromised patient e.g. MSK advice for a RA patient with RA					*	*
4.4 MSK: Biomechanics (sports/paeds etc)					*	*
4.5 MSK: POMS					*	*
4.6 MSK: Severe Systemic Disease					*	*
4.7 MSK: All Patients - Orthoses fitting e.g. Accommodative and off the shelf prefabricated orthoses	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.8 Procedures under LA: Sub cutaneous					*	*
4.9 Procedures under LA: Bone						*



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	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. Post op nail surgery dressing	*	*	*	*	*	*
5.2 Wound management: Non compromised patient eg. Dressing for infected corn			*	*	*	*
5.3 Wound management: Medically compromised patient eg. redressing of foot ulceration				*	*	*
5.4 Wound management: Severe Systemic Disease eg. including debridement of Ulcers					*	*
5.5 Wound management: POMs					*	*
5.6 Procedures under LA: Sub cutaneous e.g. electro-surgery					*	*
5.7 Procedures under LA: Bone						*
6.0 Assisting in theatre	*	*	*	*	*	*

** J. Potter, M.J. Potter Effect of callus removal on peak plantar pressures (2000) The Foot 10, 23-26

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	communicate with patients and carers throughout the discussion and examination in a manner which is appropriate to them and which encourages an open exchange of views and information	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in order to obtain all relevant information through the taking of a systematic history within your role boundaries and scope of practice
	confirm that the patient understands the purpose and nature of any examinations which need to be carried out, and gives consent	how to gain informed consent and why this is essential for safe and effective care
	review the patient's history since their last attendance	the importance of continuous review of a patient's foot health including their broader health and social care needs within your role boundaries and scope of practice
	gather information on subjective symptoms through discussion with the patient	how to gather a patient history in a systematic and clear way using open questioning
	identify the main factors that are likely to limit the patient's ability to care for their feet	what might prevent self-care and how to encourage patients to disclose this



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	examine the patient’s footwear and assess its suitability for foot type and risk status	the importance of appropriate footwear in the maintenance of good foot health
	conduct an examination of the foot including key bony landmarks	basic foot anatomy including bones and joints, pulse points and normal skin and nails
	carry out tests to assess arterial function by palpating pedal pulses and when appropriate using a Doppler	how to carry out tests for arterial function and record your findings using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	carry out tests for peripheral sensory neuropathy using appropriate tools	how to carry out tests for neurological function and record your findings using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	provide the results of the examination with the patient and carer in an appropriate manner, and at a suitable level and pace	how to communicate your findings and ongoing advice to patients and carers using language that is accessible to them
	offer information on foot care in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the importance of reinforcing information for patients to refer to once they get home



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	make a record of the examination and communicate findings to the patient, carer and where appropriate, your supervisor	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	agree when the patient will next attend in accordance with their treatment plan, leaving an interval appropriate to the risks you have identified	the need to follow accurately the treatment plan previously agreed
1.2 Health check: Non compromised patient	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> Identify a. Gross foot deformities and conditions b. Evidence of trauma	the common foot pathologies and indications of trauma that may present
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> Identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	conduct an appropriate foot examination and identify any signs of deterioration, infection or abnormality	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition
	in accordance with local protocols and within your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the treatment alternatives and their risks and benefits to the patient and/or carer together with any potential side effects and their management and accurately answer any questions at a pace and level which is appropriate to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	the need for patients and carers to understand the management plan to maximise concordance, maintaining oversight of foot health over time, including any changes that do not relate to the specific presenting condition



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	seek advice and support from an appropriate source such as your supervisor when the needs of the patient and the complexity of the case are beyond your role boundaries and scope of practice or capability	the wider members of the healthcare team such as a podiatrist/registered health care professional to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your role boundaries and scope of practice
	follow an agreed treatment plan / process and record any modifications with reasons for variance	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes the need to conduct patient care within a formal framework set out in an explicit treatment plan that is agreed with the patient, and if appropriate your supervisor
	prepare the patient’s feet in a manner consistent with the care to be provided	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation
	use nail clippers and cut and file healthy toenails straight across and file the cut edge so that the nail is smooth in a manner which is consistent with patient's plan of care, condition and safety	how to safely shorten the toenail, understanding the importance of maintaining an appropriate length and straight, smooth edge
	apply over-the-counter medicaments and dressings according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient's condition choosing from those available to you within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the indications and contra-indications of a range of over-the-counter topical medicaments and dressings and how to apply them in order to maximise their effectiveness



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Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	document the treatment provided in line with the care plan that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	recognise and escalate appropriately to your supervisor any nail and skin pathologies or trauma related nail and skin problems	your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the wider members of the healthcare team to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support
	advise your patient on toenail self-care and general foot care	how to communicate detailed and specific advice on self-care
	record any modifications which are made to the agreed treatment process and document the reasons for the variance	the need to provide a detailed record of any changes to the treatment plan, including the reasons behind these, and if it falls out with the agreed role boundaries and scope of practice to make onward referral



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	the legal requirements for the safe disposal of clinical waste and your legal obligations, including any local health and safety guidelines
2.2 Nail and skin care: Healthy Patient eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**	<i>As nail care for a healthy patient plus:</i> conservatively manage an ingrowing toenail, recognising signs and symptoms of developing or spreading infection	the causes of an ingrowing, including trauma and pathological change and the conservative techniques used to provide immediate relief and long-term resolution
	in line with care plan carry out reduction of callus via appropriate means	the need for prompt referral to a podiatrist/registered health care professional there are signs and/or symptoms of a spreading infection or increased pain
	select an appropriate scalpel blade and use a safe technique that protects the patient and the clinician from sharps injury, remove areas of superficial callus from an intact and healthy foot	the selection of appropriate instrumentation for the safe and effective management of the presenting condition
	be able to perform a non-touch dressing technique, if a haemorrhage or existing maceration present	how to use a formal approach for the safe and effective application of a sterile dressing



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.3 Nail and skin care: Non compromised patient eg. scalpel debridement and/or enucleation of corns and callus	As nail care for a healthy patient plus: reduce pathological nails with file or nail drill safely and effectively.	how to use a nail file and/or drill safely and effectively
	recognise new nail trauma or pathology and refer on when appropriate	the pathological conditions affecting the nails including cancers, and when to refer to a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	select an appropriate scalpel and use a safe technique that protects the patient and the clinician from sharps injury, remove areas of callus from an intact foot	when it is safe to debride superficial callus, being clear at all times the limits of your own role boundaries and scope of practice and clinical understanding
	select an appropriate scalpel and use a safe technique that protects the patient and the clinician from sharps injury, enucleate corns located on the toes or the sole of the intact foot	when it is safe to use sharp dissection when patient anatomy or presenting signs necessitate referral to another member of the healthcare team
	safely use a mandrill to reduce callus	when it is safe to debride superficial callus, being clear at all times the limits of your own role boundaries and scope of practice and clinical understanding



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
	be able to perform simple off-loading technique with appropriate padding and strapping	<p>the underlying bony anatomy and associated weightbearing pressures and how they can be re-distributed</p> <p>the pressure absorbing and redistributing properties of a defined range of materials</p> <p>the indications and contra-indications, including allergy, for the use of adhesive materials used on the feet</p>
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	<p><i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> in accordance with local protocols and within your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the treatment alternatives and their risks and benefits to the patient and/or carer together with any potential side effects and their management and accurately answer any questions at a pace and level which is appropriate to their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	<p>how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes</p>



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice, referring to another member of the healthcare team if not	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition using national markers for skin cancer lesions
	conduct an examination of the presenting complaint and the feet	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition using national markers for skin cancer lesions
	observe any lesions for change in appearance and if a deterioration escalate to a podiatrist / registered health care professional	the need to maintain oversight of foot health over time, including any changes that do not relate to the specific presenting condition and to escalate if there is a deterioration
	prepare the patient's feet in a manner consistent with the agreed care to be provided and identify any signs of deterioration, infection or abnormality	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk, discomfort and injury to patient and worker, and in accordance with health and safety guidelines	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit
	carry out the treatments, apply medicaments and dressings: at an appropriate time according to the patients agreed treatment plan, use appropriate techniques in line with manufacturer’s instructions and in manner which optimises the patient’s comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient’s condition choosing from those available to you	relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation the indications and contra-indications of a range of topical medicaments and dressings and how to apply them in order to maximise their effectiveness



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	seek advice and support from your supervisor when the needs of the patient and the complexity of the case are beyond your role boundaries and scope of practice and capability	your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the wider members of the healthcare team to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support
	recognise and report any signs of infection or deterioration in the patient's condition to your supervisor without delay	the need for urgent intervention from a registered professional, your supervisor when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	record any modifications which are made to the agreed treatment process and document the reasons for the variance	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	the legal requirements for the safe disposal of clinical waste and your legal obligations, including any local health and safety guidelines



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient eg. onychomycosis	<i>As healthy dermatology patient plus:</i> conduct a detailed history, including lifestyle, and examination of the affected nails or skin including size and site of the lesion(s) in order to determine a second-line treatment plan with a podiatrist/registered health care professional in consultation with the patient	the information needed by a podiatrist/registered health care professional to determine a second-line treatment plan appropriate to the age of the patient, their lifestyle, skin type, plus the site and size of the lesion(s) to be treated the pathophysiology of onychomycosis and the over-the-counter treatments available, their indications and contra indications
	initiate first-line treatment by providing the patient with advice regarding the use of over-the-counter self-treatment for onychomycosis or skin pathology	the importance of consent being secured on the explicit basis that the patient fully understands the treatment options and their consequences
	if first-line treatment is not progressing either refer the patient in accordance with the agreed second-line treatment plan obtain separate consent for treatment or procedures outside that of routine treatment, checking that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment choices being offered, the implications of this choice and any potential side effects together with their management	how to undertake safely a defined range of treatment options taking into account the site and size of the lesions, with particular regard to underlying anatomy



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient eg. onychomycosis	within your role boundaries and scope of practice, carry out the treatments, apply medicaments and dressings: at an appropriate time according to the patients plan of care use appropriate techniques in line with manufacturer’s instructions and in manner which optimises the patient’s comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma according to the patient’s defined treatment plan	the possible complications for each treatment and how they can present
	provide the patient, and if appropriate their carer, with advice about self-management between appointments, including how to seek urgent advice or treatment if there is pain, discomfort or other complication	the critical importance of patients being able to obtain emergency treatment in a timely way
	arrange to review the patient in accordance with the treatment plan, reviewing the progress of the treatment in accordance with the treatment plan, pausing treatment pain or signs of tissue breakdown or infection are present and if necessary referring to your supervisor	that regular review ensures patient health and safety is maintained and that an interruption of treatment can promote patient welfare



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
<p>3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient eg. onychomycosis</p>	<p>document in detail the progress of the treatment, referring back to the podiatrist/registered health care professional as necessary</p>	<p>the need for detailed records to meet legal obligations and the need for triage if the treatment does not progress in line with the treatment plan</p>
<p>4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice</p>	<p><i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> in accordance with the treatment plan agreed with a podiatrist/registered health care professional, local protocols and within your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the treatment alternatives and their risks and benefits to the patient and/or carer together with any potential side effects and their management and accurately answer any questions at a pace and level which is appropriate to their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	<p>how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes</p>



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Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice	check that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment choices being offered, the implications of this choice and any potential side effects together with their management	the importance of consent being secured on the explicit basis that the patient fully understands the treatment options and their consequences
	identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition
	conduct an appropriate foot examination	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition
	document a treatment plan that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	the need to conduct patient care within a formal framework set out in an explicit treatment plan that is agreed with the patient, and if appropriate your supervisor
	provide specific advice focusing on footwear, lifestyle, exercise type and intensity	the role that footwear and exercise type and intensity have on musculoskeletal conditions affecting the foot



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. padding and strapping	As MSK Healthy patient plus: prepare the patient's feet in a manner consistent with the care to be provided and identify any signs of abnormality or deterioration	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety
	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk, discomfort and injury to patient and worker, and in accordance with health and safety guidelines	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. padding and strapping	construct padding and strapping to alleviate the presenting symptoms	the underlying bony anatomy and associated weightbearing pressures and how they can be re-distributed the pressure absorbing and redistributing properties of a defined range of materials the indications and contra-indications, including allergy, for the use of adhesive materials used on the feet
	take the measurements needed for the manufacture of a simple insole	how to create a template that identifies the position of underlying bony structures within a shoe and areas for offloading footwear options available to patients and their pros and cons
4.7 MSK: All Patients - Orthoses fitting eg. accommodative and off the shelf prefabricated orthoses	fit an orthosis to a patient's shoe ensuring a comfortable fit	how to adjust an orthosis to fit the shoe whilst maintaining its functionality
	review the effectiveness of insoles and any issues that may have arisen as a result of fitting	how effectiveness is determined



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> explain to the patient the treatment plan recommended by the registered professional, checking that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment and any self-management required	dressing care is delegated by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional as part of an overall treatment plan be able to understand the phases of wound healing, signs of infection and dressing selection
	take a detailed history about the treatment to date	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition the importance of up to date clinical information in determining whether referral for revision of the agreed treatment plan is required the need for urgent intervention from your supervisor or alternative health care professional when deterioration and/or infection occurs



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	conduct an appropriate foot examination, checking carefully for signs of changes to wound and or escalating infection recognising the stages of skin breakdown	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires intervention from your supervisor or alternative health care professional or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition
	recognise and report any signs of infection or deterioration in the patient’s condition to your supervisor or podiatrist/registered health care professional without delay	the need for urgent intervention from a podiatrist/registered health care professional when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	document the treatment that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	the need for detailed contemporaneous records to meet legal obligations



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	carry out the treatments, apply medicaments and dressings at an appropriate time according to the patients plan of care using appropriate techniques in line with manufacturer’s instructions and in manner which optimises the patient’s comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient’s condition	the possible complications of treatment and how they can present
	provide footwear advice relevant to the presenting condition	the role of footwear in the management of a surgical wound in order to decompress the area
	provide the patient, and if appropriate their carer, with advice about self-management between appointments, including how to seek urgent advice or treatment if there is pain, discomfort or other complication	the critical importance of patients being able to obtain emergency treatment in a timely way
	arrange to review the patient in accordance with the treatment plan, reviewing the progress of the treatment in accordance with the treatment plan	that regular review ensures patient health and safety is maintained



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	document in detail the progress of the treatment, referring back to the podiatrist/registered health care professional as necessary	the need for detailed records to meet legal obligations and the need for triage if the treatment does not progress in line with the treatment plan
5.2 Wound management: Non compromised patient eg. dressing for infected corn	<i>As wound management healthy patient plus:</i> when infection occurs seek advice from your supervisor, a registered professional in order to determine an appropriate treatment plan based on the patient history, pharmacological profile and examination	the need to ensure patient safety through the use of a defined treatment plan determined by a podiatrist/registered health care professional
	provide advice on self-care of dressing and skin care, pressure ulcer prevention	the potential complications that can occur and how to advise patients accordingly
	provide footwear advice relevant to the presenting condition	the role of footwear in the management of ulceration in order to decompress the area



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	prepare the pre-surgical and surgical clinical environments, including local anaesthesia and surgical packs, according to local protocols and health and safety requirements	local health and safety guidelines, where materials are stored and how to prepare the clinical area(s)
	prepare the patient according to local protocols and health and safety requirements	local protocols and how to use them
	prior to any treatment ensure all relevant consents have been signed, checking with the patient that nothing has changed, and they understand the consent they have given	the medicolegal requirements for informed consent including joint parental consent and Gillick competency where appropriate, and for this to be checked immediately prior to surgery
	if the patient is a child, agree in advance with the patient and their parent how they will support the patient throughout the procedure and importantly where they need to position themselves to ensure patient safety throughout	the need to ensure children are fully supported throughout the procedure whilst also maintaining a safe clinical environment



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	check that the patient will be able to return home safely following the surgery	the importance of ensuring minimal trauma in the immediate post-operative phase
	check the patient will be able to follow the post-surgical dressing protocol that follows the surgery, including ensuring they have appropriate footwear for post- surgical discharge	the critical importance of full patient involvement in managing their wound
	undertake pre-surgical tests including pulse, O2 saturation, blood pressure	how to undertake pre-surgical tests and document them accurately
	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional by preparing the instrumentation for the administration of local anaesthesia	what equipment is needed for the safe administration of local anaesthesia
	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional by handling any medicines required once they have been prepared	
	position the patient for the administration of local anaesthesia to minimise patient discomfort	how to maintain patient comfort and safety during local anaesthesia



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	reassure the patient during anaesthesia and throughout the procedure, maintaining a relaxed but professional environment	the importance of your role in maintaining patient well-being during surgery
	monitor the patient throughout, escalating any concerns to the registered professional	how to check on the patient and what changes you need to escalate to colleagues
	(if necessary) safely move the patient to the operating area and position in accordance with local protocols	how to safely move the patient within the clinical area, if this is needed
	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional in gloving and gowning, using a strict no-touch protocol	how to support the podiatrist/registered health care professional undertaking the surgery in donning sterile gown and gloves
	assist the podiatrist/registered health care professional in draping the surgical area	how to support the podiatrist/registered health care professional undertaking the surgery in draping the surgical area without compromising the sterile field
	using a strict no-touch protocol provide additional items as required by the registered practitioner eg dressings, additional instrumentation	how to provide additional materials as required using strict no touch protocols



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	keep a strict note of the time used for a range of activities eg tourniquet application, application of caustic	the importance of monitoring the time taken for critical interventions for patient safety
	if necessary, support the registered professional in the application of urgent treatment if there is a clinical emergency	how to administer basic life support and how to summon help
	support the patient, and their carer, during the immediate post-operative phase	how to sensitively meet the needs of patients and carers
	following the surgery, check on any dressings for any sign of haemorrhage and if necessary, alert the podiatrist/ registered health care professional	what to look for when checking a post-surgical dressing
	support the patient in their preparations to leave the clinical area, ensuring they have understood the post-surgical advice, the indications for raising a concern prior to their first post-surgical appointment, how to make an emergency appointment	what is needed from the patient on the immediate post-surgical days and the importance of checking that they know how to obtain emergency care if needed
	ensure the patient has written post-surgical advice and a follow up appointment	the need for clear written information to back up any verbal advice as patients will rely on this



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	using local protocols safely restore the clinical area and arrange for the removal of soiled instrumentation and drapes and disposal of single use items	local health and safety protocols including the safe disposal of soiled materials and of sharps

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Educational Standards

	The AP must always:
Key and Transferable skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply problem-solving skills in practice settings taking account of relevant social, cultural, psychological and ethical issues. 2. Use effective communication skills to support patients with different cultural and socioeconomic needs, dealing with both straightforward and complex clinical scenarios. 3. Communicate complex, sensitive information to a wide variety of professionals using a variety of methods including the use of interpersonal skills, written and verbal effectiveness. 4. Promote equality of opportunity and respect diversity of patients, carers and the wider healthcare team. 5. Demonstrate a professional value base, and through self-reflection take professional responsibility for their own role boundaries and scope of practice 6. Maintain and further develop their own skills and knowledge, and that of others, through recognised Continued Professional Development (CPD) activities enabling flexibility in practice and in response to changing service needs. 7. Adhere to relevant professional standards for conduct and ethics. 8. Demonstrate appropriate leadership within the scope of the role to effectively manage their own defined caseload. 9. Apply interdisciplinary skills for both straightforward and complex work, in one- to-one and in group and team situations in order to plan, organise, allocate, review and evaluate their own practice in a variety of settings.



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Educational Standards

	The AP will be able to:
Practical Skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Provide and promote holistic patient/person-centred care and support, demonstrating duty of care and safeguarding of individuals. 11. Demonstrate competence in a range of relevant clinical, technical and administrative procedures relevant to their role boundaries and scope of practice 12. Take a detailed patient history, using local protocols to refer when necessary. 13. Follow a stepwise and holistic approach to patient assessment, undertaking relevant physiological measurements using appropriate equipment in a safe and effective manner. 14. Apply problem-solving and critical thinking skills in practice settings taking account of relevant social, cultural, psychological and ethical issues. 15. Safely and effectively provide a range of footcare interventions that fall within their own role boundaries and scope of practice. 16. Provide patients with information about how to maintain their foot health 17. Appropriately, refer patients to members of the wider healthcare team in order to maximise outcomes for patients. 18. Maintain a safe clinical environment in clinical and domiciliary settings. 19. Maintain accurate and detailed patient records. 20. Keep information confidential and make appropriate use of technology.

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Educational Standards

	The AP will know and understand
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">21. Apply interdisciplinary skills for both straightforward and complex work, in one-to-one and in group and team situations in order to plan, organise, allocate, review and evaluate their own practice.22. The physiology, organisation and function of the human body and healthcare needs across the lifespan in health and disease.23. The common health conditions that affect the foot and lower limb.24. The common disorders affecting skin and nails of the foot and lower limb.25. The concepts that underpin infection control and how to prevent cross-infection and the importance of health and safety in all practice settings.26. How to present qualitative and quantitative data when making referrals27. How to critically analyse current practice-based evidence to improve the quality of patient care28. How to integrate principles, theory and practice in the context of health and social care utilising information from a wide variety of sources including current research29. The legal and ethical frameworks in which patient care is provided.

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Clinical Domains

Key				
ASA Physical Status Classification*	ASA1	ASA2	ASA3	ASA4
Modified ASA Definitions	Healthy, Non-smoker, minimal alcohol use, no medical history which will compromise treatment of the foot e.g. Healthy Patient	Mild systemic disease with no evidence of pathology or with pathology that is controlled by medication – no impact on foot health status or direct impact upon the treatment of limb and foot e.g. Non-Compromised patient	Substantial systemic disease that directly impacts upon the treatment of the limb and foot e.g. Medically Compromised Patient	Multiple Pathology and co morbidity that directly impact on the foot and its treatment e.g. Severe Systemic Disease

*<https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/asa-physical-status-classification-system>

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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	*	*	*	*	*	*
1.2 Health check: Non compromised patient			*	*	*	*
1.3 Health check: Medically compromised patient e.g. Ankle Brachial Pressure Index and Toe Brachial Pressure index				*	*	*
1.4 Health check: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. Pressure ulcer prevention, Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool, Waterlow, BP, Atrial Fibrillation screen				*	*	*
1.5 Interpretation of findings and triage					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	*	*	*	*	*	*
2.2 Nail and skin care: Healthy Patient eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**			*	*	*	*
2.3 Nail and skin care: Non compromised patient eg. scalpel debridement of corns and callus			*	*	*	*
2.4 Nail and skin care: Medically compromised patient (such as patient with stable non limb threatening peripheral arterial disease) eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**				*	*	*
2.5 Nail and skin care: Severe Systemic Disease including polypharmacy of steroids, anti-coagulants, bio-logics, etc					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg blisters,	*	*	*	*	*	*
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient including children eg. Athletes Foot			*	*	*	*
3.3 Dermatology: Medically compromised patient e.g. Management of skin conditions in patients with diabetes having glucose/glycaemic variability				*	*	*
3.4 Dermatology: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. Hyperkeratosis/fungal infection in PAD and diabetes				*	*	*
3.5 Procedures under LA: Skin and nails					*	*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. Foot health advice	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. Padding and strapping			*	*	*	*
4.3 MSK: Medically compromised patient e.g. MSK advice for a RA patient with RA					*	*
4.4 MSK: Biomechanics (sports/paeds etc)					*	*
4.5 MSK: POMS					*	*
4.6 MSK: Severe Systemic Disease					*	*
4.7 MSK: All Patients - Orthoses fitting e.g. Accommodative and off the shelf prefabricated orthoses	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.8 Procedures under LA: Sub cutaneous					*	*
4.9 Procedures under LA: Bone						*



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Clinical Domains

	Level 3 FHP	Level 3 NHS Support worker e.g. FCA, SHCSW	Level 4 FHP	Level 5 NHS support worker e.g. AP	HCPC Registered Podiatrist Advanced /Specialist/ Consultant Practitioner	Podiatric Surgeon (HCPC Podiatric Surgery annotation)
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. Post op nail surgery dressing	*	*	*	*	*	*
5.2 Wound management: Non compromised patient eg. Dressing for infected corn			*	*	*	*
5.3 Wound management: Medically compromised patient eg. redressing of foot ulceration				*	*	*
5.4 Wound management: Severe Systemic Disease eg. including debridement of Ulcers					*	*
5.5 Wound management: POMs					*	*
5.6 Procedures under LA: Sub cutaneous e.g. electrotherapy					*	*
5.7 Procedures under LA: Bone						*
6.0 Assisting in theatre	*	*	*	*	*	*

** J. Potter, M.J. Potter Effect of callus removal on peak plantar pressures (2000) The Foot 10, 23-26

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	communicate with patients and carers throughout the discussion and examination in a manner which is appropriate to them and which encourages an open exchange of views and information	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in order to obtain all relevant information through the taking of a systematic history within your role boundaries and scope of practice
	confirm that the patient understands the purpose and nature of any examinations which need to be carried out, and gives consent	how to gain informed consent and why this is essential for safe and effective care
	review the patient's history since their last attendance	the importance of continuous review of a patient's foot health including their broader health and social care needs within your role boundaries and scope of practice how general health changes may impact on the foot and lower limb
	gather information on subjective symptoms through discussion with the patient	how to gather a patient history in a systematic and clear way using open questioning



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	identify the main factors that are likely to limit the patient’s ability to care for their feet	what might prevent self-care and how to encourage patients to disclose this
	examine the patient’s footwear and assess its suitability for foot type and risk status	the importance of appropriate footwear in the maintenance of good foot health
	conduct an examination of the foot including key bony landmarks	basic foot anatomy including bones and joints, pulse points and normal skin and nails
	carry out tests to assess vascular function by palpating pedal pulses and when appropriate using a Doppler determine an ankle brachial pressure index and a toe brachial pressure index	how to carry out tests for vascular function and record your findings using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	carry out tests to assess neurological function using appropriate tools	how to carry out tests for neurological function and record your findings using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	provide the results of the examination with the patient and carer in an appropriate manner, and at a suitable level and pace	how to communicate your findings and ongoing advice to patients and carers using language that is accessible to them

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.1 Health check: Healthy Patient	offer information on foot care in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the importance of reinforcing information for patients to refer to once they get home
	make a record of the examination and communicate findings to the patient, carer and where appropriate, your supervisor	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	agree when the patient will next attend, leaving an interval appropriate to the risks you have identified	the need to anticipate accurately when the patient will next require a foot health check
1.2 Health check: Non compromised patient	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> Identify a. Gross foot deformities and conditions b. Evidence of trauma	the common foot pathologies and indications of trauma that may present
1.3 Health check: Medically compromised patient eg. ankle brachial pressure Index and toe brachial pressure index	<i>As for non-compromised patient plus:</i> take a full patient history including all relevant details of their general health e.g. Normal HBA1c and diabetes control, medical and surgical conditions and any previous acute episodes affecting the foot and/or lower limb with impact/ risk to foot health and general health	the range of medical and surgical conditions and prescribed medications that have a negative impact on the structure and function of the feet and lower limb



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.3 Health check: Medically compromised patient eg. ankle brachial pressure Index and toe brachial pressure index	conduct relevant vascular and neurological tests including ABPI, TBPI, BP, irregular heart rhythm, venous leg disease and escalate for appropriate referral pathway for detected disease	the indications for in-depth examinations in patients presenting with medical conditions that have a negative impact on the structure and function of the feet and lower limb using formal local protocols for interpretation by your supervisor
	conduct a meticulous examination of the foot and lower limb in order to determine the presence of hidden ulceration	how ulceration in the foot can present and be masked
	check vital signs and recognise deteriorating patient eg. sepsis	the signs and symptoms of spread of infection using formal local protocols for interpretation by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	appropriately escalate concerns about foot structure and/or function to your supervisor in a timely manner	the need for escalation and/or referral and the degree of urgency in patients with underlying medical or surgical pathology reporting to your supervisor
	offer detailed and specific information on foot care and footwear in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the importance of self-management of foot care and footwear in the context of ongoing medical and surgical pathology



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
1.4 Health check: Severe Systemic Disease e.g. pressure ulcer prevention, Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool, Waterlow, BP, atrial fibrillation screen	<i>As for compromised patient plus:</i> Identify a. Gross foot deformities b. Evidence of trauma in the context of a patient’s medical and surgical history	the significance and impact that medical or surgical pathology have on the presenting lesions
	offer information on foot care and footwear appropriate to the presenting foot condition(s) in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the importance of self-management of foot care and footwear for a patient with foot pathology together with ongoing medical and surgical pathology
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> Identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition
	conduct an appropriate foot examination and identify any signs of deterioration, infection or abnormality	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	in accordance with local protocols and within your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the management and treatment protocol to the patient and or carer; include the benefits and risks, along with any potential side effects and accurately answer any questions, at a pace and level which is appropriate to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	the need for patients and carers to understand the management plan to maximise concordance, maintaining oversight of foot health over time, including any changes that do not relate to the specific presenting condition
	seek advice and support from an appropriate source such as your supervisor when the needs of the patient and the complexity of the case are beyond your role boundaries and scope of practice or capability	the wider members of the healthcare team such as your supervisor to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	follow an agreed treatment plan / process and record any modifications with reasons for variance	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes the need to conduct patient care within a formal framework set out in an explicit treatment plan that is agreed with the patient, and if appropriate your supervisor
	prepare the patient’s feet in a manner consistent with the care to be provided	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety
	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	use nail clippers and cut and file healthy toenails straight across and file the cut edge so that the nail is smooth in a manner which is consistent with patient's plan of care, condition and safety	how to safely shorten the toenail, understanding the importance of maintaining an appropriate length and straight, smooth edge
	apply medicaments and dressings according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient's condition choosing from those available to you within your role boundaries and scope of practice	the indications and contra-indications of a range of topical medicaments and dressings and how to apply them in order to maximise their effectiveness
	document the treatment provided in line with the care plan that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	recognise and escalate appropriately to your supervisor any nail and skin pathologies or trauma related nail and skin problems	your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the wider members of the healthcare team to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support
	advise your patient on toenail self-care and general foot care	how to communicate detailed and specific advice on self-care

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.1 Nail Care: Healthy Patient eg. nail care and foot health advice	record any modifications which are made to the agreed treatment process and document the reasons for the variance	the need to provide a detailed record of any changes to the treatment plan, including the reasons behind these, and if it falls out with the agreed role boundaries and scope of practice to make onward referral
	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	the legal requirements for the safe disposal of clinical waste and your legal obligations, including any local health and safety guidelines
2.2 Nail and skin care: Healthy Patient eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**	<i>As nail care for a healthy patient plus:</i> conservatively manage an ingrowing toenail, recognising signs and symptoms of developing or spreading infection	the causes of an ingrowing, including trauma and pathological change and the conservative techniques used to provide immediate relief and long-term resolution
	in line with care plan carry out reduction of callus via appropriate means	the need for prompt referral to a podiatrist/registered health care professional if there are signs and/or symptoms of a spreading infection or increased pain



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.2 Nail and skin care: Healthy Patient eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**	select an appropriate scalpel blade and use a safe technique that protects the patient and the clinician from sharps injury, remove areas of superficial callus from an intact and healthy foot	the selection of appropriate instrumentation for the safe and effective management of the presenting condition
	be able to perform a non-touch dressing technique, if a haemorrhage or existing maceration present	how to use a formal approach for the safe and effective application of a sterile dressing
2.3 Nail and skin care: Non compromised patient eg. scalpel debridement of corns and callus	<i>As nail and skin care for a healthy patient plus:</i> reduce pathological nails with file or nail drill safely and effectively	how to use a nail file and/or drill safely and effectively
	recognise new nail trauma or pathology and refer on when appropriate	the pathological conditions affecting the nails including cancers, and when to refer to a podiatrist/ registered health care professional
	select an appropriate scalpel and use a safe technique that protects the patient and the clinician from sharps injury, remove areas of callus from an intact foot	when it is safe to debride callus, being clear at all times the limits of your own role boundaries and scope of practice and clinical understanding



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.3 Nail and skin care: Non compromised patient eg. scalpel debridement of corns and callus	select an appropriate scalpel and use a safe technique that protects the patient and the clinician from sharps injury, enucleate corns located on the toes or the sole of the intact foot	when it is safe to use sharp dissection when patient anatomy or presenting signs necessitate referral to another member of the healthcare team
	be able to perform simple off-loading technique with appropriate padding and strapping	the underlying bony anatomy and associated weightbearing pressures and how they can be re-distributed the pressure absorbing and redistributing properties of a defined range of materials the indications and contra-indications, including allergy, for the use of adhesive materials used on the feet



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
2.4 Nail and skin care: Medically compromised patient (such as patient with stable non limb threatening peripheral arterial disease) eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**, but excludes debridement of an existing foot ulcer	<i>As for non-compromised patient plus:</i> know when to escalate ulcerated patient e.g. vascular, diabetic, inflammatory, pressure ulcer, dermatology to your supervisor in a timely manner	the presenting symptoms of foot ulceration and when to make a referral in order to maximise patient outcomes local referral guidelines and pathways for different medical conditions and refer the patient to a podiatrist/ registered health care professional with the appropriate degree of urgency
	exercise appropriate caution in the management of nails and/or callus in the context of the patient’s ongoing medical and/or surgical pathology, referring to another member of the healthcare team if necessary	the need to modify specific treatments in the context of the patient’s ongoing medical and/or surgical pathology in order to prevent clinician induced damage to soft tissues and the potential for breaches to the integrity of the skin and infection
	if a sharps injury occurs, use a formal risk assessment approach for referral to your supervisor	the need for escalation and/or referral and the degree of urgency following a sharps injury in patients with underlying medical or surgical pathology reporting to your supervisor



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
<p>2.4 Nail and skin care: Medically compromised patient (such as patient with stable non limb threatening peripheral arterial disease) eg. scalpel debridement of physiological callus**, but excludes debridement of an existing foot ulcer</p>	<p>provide detailed and specific advice for self-management, including the management of a sharps injury, following the treatment and including how to seek emergency treatment</p>	<p>the importance of self-management in maintaining foot health and the indications for seeking emergency treatment</p>



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> in accordance with local protocols and within your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the treatment alternatives and their risks and benefits to the patient and/or carer together with any potential side effects and their management and accurately answer any questions at a pace and level which is appropriate to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes
	identify the specific causes of concern, ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice referring to another member of the healthcare team if not	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition using national markers for skin cancer lesions



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	conduct an examination of the presenting complaint and the feet	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition using national markers for skin cancer lesions
	observe any lesions/wound for change in appearance and if a deterioration escalate to a podiatrist / registered health care professional:	the need to maintain oversight of foot health over time, including any changes that do not relate to the specific presenting condition and to escalate if there is a deterioration
	prepare the patient’s feet in a manner consistent with the agreed care to be provided and identify any signs of deterioration, infection or abnormality	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety
	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk, discomfort and injury to patient and worker, and in accordance with health and safety guidelines	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	carry out the treatments, apply medicaments and dressings: at an appropriate time according to the patients agreed treatment plan, use appropriate techniques in line with manufacturer’s instructions and in manner which optimises the patient’s comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient’s condition choosing from those available to you	relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation the indications and contra-indications of a range of topical medicaments and dressings and how to apply them in order to maximise their effectiveness
	seek advice and support from your supervisor when the needs of the patient and the complexity of the case are beyond your role boundaries and scope of practice and capability.	your professional responsibility to only undertake treatment that falls within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the wider members of the healthcare team to whom you can refer patients or from whom you can seek advice or support
	recognise and report any signs of infection or deterioration in the patient’s condition to your supervisor without delay	the need for urgent intervention from a registered professional, your supervisor when deterioration and/or infection occurs



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.1 Dermatology: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice eg. blisters	record any modifications which are made to the agreed treatment process and document the reasons for the variance	how to meet your legal obligations in keeping accurate contemporaneous records
	dispose of waste materials in an appropriate manner and place in accordance with health and safety guidelines	the legal requirements for the safe disposal of clinical waste and your legal obligations, including any local health and safety guidelines
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient eg. onychomycosis	<i>As healthy dermatology patient plus:</i> conduct a detailed history, including lifestyle, and examination of the affected nails or skin including size and site of the lesion(s) in order to determine a second-line treatment plan with a podiatrist/ registered health care professional in consultation with the patient	the information needed by a podiatrist/ registered health care professional to determine a second-line treatment plan appropriate to the age of the patient, their lifestyle, skin type, plus the site and size of the lesion(s) to be treated the pathophysiology of onychomycosis and the over-the-counter treatments available, their indications and contra indications
	initiate first-line treatment by providing the patient with advice regarding the use of over-the-counter self-treatment for verrucae/onychomycosis or skin pathology	the importance of consent being secured on the explicit basis that the patient fully understands the treatment options and their consequences

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient eg. onychomycosis	if first-line treatment is not progressing either refer the patient in accordance with the agreed second-line treatment plan obtain separate consent for treatment or procedures outside that of routine treatment, checking that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment choices being offered, the implications of this choice and any potential side effects together with their management	how to undertake safely a defined range of treatment options taking into account the site and size of the lesions, with particular regard to underlying anatomy
	within your role boundaries and scope of practice, carry out the treatments, apply medicaments and dressings at an appropriate time according to the patient's plan of care, using appropriate techniques in line with the manufacturer's instructions and in a manner which optimises the patient's comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma, according to the patient's defined treatment plan	the possible complications for each treatment and how they can present



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.2 Dermatology: Non compromised patient eg. verrucae, onychomycosis	provide the patient, and if appropriate their carer, with advice about self-management between appointments, including how to seek urgent advice or treatment if there is pain, discomfort or other complication	the critical importance of patients being able to obtain emergency treatment in a timely way
	arrange to review the patient in accordance with the treatment plan, reviewing the progress of the treatment in accordance with the treatment plan, pausing treatment if pain or signs of tissue breakdown or infection are present and if necessary referring to your supervisor	that regular review ensures patient health and safety is maintained and that an interruption of treatment can promote patient welfare
	document in detail the progress of the treatment, referring back to the podiatrist/registered health care professional as necessary	the need for detailed records to meet legal obligations and the need for triage if the treatment does not progress in line with the treatment plan



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.3 Dermatology: Medically compromised patient e.g. Management of skin conditions in patients with diabetes having glucose/glycaemic variability	<i>As for non-compromised patient plus:</i> offer detailed and specific information on foot care and footwear relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the importance of self-management of skin, footcare and footwear in the context of ongoing medical and surgical pathology and pressure ulcer prevention that supports the individual patient’s lifestyle choices within safe limits
	provide specific advice on how to avoid common foot injuries and trauma including the use of over-the-counter topical applications, relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity	the causes of common injuries and their consequences in patients with compromised healing, circulation and/or neurological functioning
3.4 Dermatology: Severe systemic disease e.g. Hyperkeratosis/fungal infection in PAD and diabetes	<i>As for compromised patient plus:</i> recognise the different lower limb skin conditions eg varicose eczema, venous ulceration, tissue breakdown and arrange appropriate onward referral to your supervisor in a timely manner	the presenting signs and symptoms of a broad range of dermatological conditions affecting the foot and lower limb and when to make a referral in order to maximise patient outcomes who to refer the patient to with the appropriate degree of urgency in liaison with your supervisor



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
3.4 Dermatology: Severe systemic disease e.g. Hyperkeratosis/ fungal infection in PAD and diabetes	in the context of specific foot deformities, offer detailed and specific information on foot care and footwear relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the need to take account of the self-management of foot care and footwear in the context of ongoing medical and surgical pathology, that supports the individual patient’s lifestyle choices, within safe limits for patients with existing foot pathology
	in the context of specific foot deformities, provide specific advice on how to avoid common foot injuries and trauma including the use of over-the-counter topical applications, relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity	the causes of common injuries and their consequences in patients with foot pathology, together with compromised healing, circulation and/or sensory neuropathy



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice	<p><i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i></p> <p>in accordance with local protocols and within your role boundaries and scope of practice, explain the treatment alternatives and their risks and benefits to the patient and/or carer together with any potential side effects and their management and accurately answer any questions at a pace and level which is appropriate to their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional state • level of understanding • culture and background • preferred ways of communicating • needs 	<p>how to conduct a professional conversation with patients and carers in ways that they can understand the treatment choices open to them and their likely outcomes</p>
	<p>check that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment choices being offered, the implications of this choice and any potential side effects together with their management</p>	<p>the importance of consent being secured on the explicit basis that the patient fully understands the treatment options and their consequences</p>



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.1 MSK: Healthy Patient eg. foot health advice	identify any new causes of concern ensuring the presenting problem is within your role boundaries and scope of practice and in accordance with the treatment plan	the signs and symptoms of the presenting condition including whether it requires onward referral, a second opinion or whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice
	take a detailed history about the presenting complaint	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition
	conduct an appropriate foot examination	the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition
	document a treatment plan that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	the need to conduct patient care within a formal framework set out in an explicit treatment plan that is agreed with the patient, and if appropriate your supervisor
	provide specific advice focusing on footwear, lifestyle, exercise type and intensity	the role that footwear and exercise type and intensity have on musculoskeletal conditions affecting the foot



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. padding and strapping	As MSK Healthy patient plus: prepare the patient’s feet in a manner consistent with the care to be provided and identify any signs of abnormality or deterioration	how to minimise cross infection and maintain patient and practitioner safety
	use equipment appropriate for the patient, their condition, the treatment plan and the care being given	the importance of using the correct instruments for the selected intervention
	handle and operate instruments and equipment in a manner which reduces the likelihood of risk, discomfort and injury to patient and worker, and in accordance with health and safety guidelines	how to use equipment safely whilst maximising clinical benefit relevant health and safety guidelines, keeping up to date with guidance and changes in legislation



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.2 MSK: Non compromised patient eg. padding and strapping	construct padding and strapping to alleviate the presenting symptoms	<p>the underlying bony anatomy and associated weightbearing pressures and how they can be re-distributed</p> <p>the pressure absorbing and redistributing properties of a defined range of materials</p> <p>the indications and contra-indications, including allergy, for the use of adhesive materials used on the feet</p>
	take the measurements needed for the manufacture of a simple insole	how to create a template that identifies the position of underlying bony structures within a shoe and areas for offloading footwear options available to patients and their pros and cons
	provide specific advice on how to avoid common foot injuries and trauma including the use of over-the-counter topical applications, relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity	the causes of common injuries and their consequences in patients with compromised healing, circulation and/or neurological functioning



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.3 MSK Medically Compromised patient e.g. MSK advice for a RA patient with RA	<i>As MSK non-compromised patient plus:</i> in the context of specific foot deformities, offer detailed and specific information on foot care and footwear relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity in a suitable form for the patient and carer, to reinforce their understanding	the need to take account of the self-management of foot care and footwear in the context of ongoing medical and surgical pathology that supports the individual patient's lifestyle choices within safe limits for patients with existing foot pathology
	in the context of specific foot deformities, provide specific advice on how to avoid common foot injuries and trauma including the use of over-the-counter topical applications, relevant to activities of daily living, work related considerations and sporting activity	the causes of common injuries and their consequences in patients with foot pathology, together with compromised healing, circulation and/or neurological functioning
	as set out in the agreed treatment plan, provide specific advice focusing on footwear, lifestyle, exercise type and intensity	the role that footwear and exercise type and intensity have on musculoskeletal conditions affecting the foot



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
4.7 MSK: All Patients - Orthoses fitting eg. Accommodative and off the shelf prefabricated orthoses	fit an orthosis to a patient’s shoe ensuring a comfortable fit	how to adjust an orthosis to fit the shoe whilst maintaining its functionality
	using accepted protocols. review the effectiveness of insoles for concordance and any deterioration/improvement of the presenting condition, referring on to the podiatrist/registered health care professional when necessary	how fit is determined and when to seek advice from a podiatrist/registered health care professional
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	<i>As healthy patient health check plus:</i> explain to the patient the treatment plan recommended by the registered professional, checking that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment and any self-management required	dressing care is delegated by a podiatrist/registered health care professional as part of an overall treatment plan be able to understand the phases of wound healing, signs of infection and dressing selection.



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	take a detailed history about the treatment to date	how to take a logical and sequenced history that is relevant to the presenting condition the importance of up to date clinical information in determining whether referral for revision of the agreed treatment plan is required the need for urgent intervention from your supervisor or alternative health care professional when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	conduct an appropriate foot examination, checking carefully for signs of changes to wounds and or escalating infection recognising the stages of skin breakdown	the cause and pathophysiology of the presenting condition including whether it requires intervention from your supervisor or alternative health care professional whether it is within your own role boundaries and scope of practice the tests needed that are specific to the presenting condition



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	recognise and report any signs of infection or deterioration in the patient's condition to your supervisor or alternative health care professional without delay	the need for urgent intervention from a podiatrist/registered health care professional when deterioration and/or infection occurs
	document the treatment that is agreed with the patient and if appropriate, their carer	the need for detailed contemporaneous records to meet legal obligations
	carry out treatments, apply medicaments and dressings at an appropriate time according to the patient's plan of care, using appropriate techniques in line with the manufacturer's instructions and in a manner which optimises the patient's comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma, according to the prescription of care appropriate to the patient's conditions	the possible complications of treatment and how they can present
	provide footwear advice relevant to the presenting condition	the role of footwear in the management of surgical wound in order to decompress the area



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.1 Wound management: Healthy Patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing	provide the patient, and if appropriate their carer, with advice about self-management between appointments, including how to seek urgent advice or treatment if there is pain, discomfort or other complication	the critical importance of patients being able to obtain emergency treatment in a timely way
	arrange to review the patient in accordance with the treatment plan, reviewing the progress of the treatment in accordance with the treatment plan	that regular review ensures patient health and safety is maintained
	document in detail the progress of the treatment, referring back to the podiatrist/registered health care professional as necessary	the need for detailed records to meet legal obligations and the need for triage if the treatment does not progress in line with the treatment plan

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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.2 Wound management: Non compromised patient eg. dressing for infected corn	<i>As wound management healthy patient plus:</i> when infection occurs seek advice from your supervisor, a podiatrist/registered health care professional in order to determine an appropriate treatment plan based on the patient history, pharmacological profile and examination	the need to ensure patient safety through the use of a defined treatment plan determined by a podiatrist/registered health care professional
	provide advice on self-care of dressing and skin care, pressure ulcer prevention	the potential complications that can occur and how to advise patients accordingly
	provide footwear advice relevant to the presenting condition	the role of footwear in the management of ulceration in order to decompress the area
5.3 Wound management: Medically compromised patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing for patient with diabetes	<i>As for non-compromised patient plus:</i> throughout the episode of care use formal protocols to monitor healing	the importance of systematic monitoring of healing in patients with compromised healing, circulation and/or neurological functioning



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
5.3 Wound management: Medically compromised patient eg. post op nail surgery dressing for patient with diabetes	exercise particular caution in determining when to review the patient	the consequences of spreading infection in patients with compromised healing, circulation, and/or neurological functioning
	report urgently to supervisor following local protocols and referral pathways (sepsis)	when to report to your supervisor
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	prepare the pre-surgical and surgical clinical environments, including local anaesthesia and surgical packs, according to local protocols and health and safety requirements	local health and safety guidelines, where materials are stored and how to prepare the clinical area(s)
	prepare the patient according to local protocols and health and safety requirements	local protocols and how to use them
	prior to any treatment ensure all relevant consents have been signed, checking with the patient that nothing has changed, and they understand the consent they have given	the medicolegal requirements for informed consent including joint parental consent and Gillick competency where appropriate, and for this to be checked immediately prior to surgery



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	if the patient is a child, agree in advance with the patient and their parent how they will support the patient throughout the procedure and importantly where they need to position themselves to ensure patient safety throughout	the need to ensure children are fully supported throughout the procedure whilst also maintaining a safe clinical environment
	check that the patient will be able to return home safely following the surgery	the importance of ensuring minimal trauma in the immediate post-operative phase
	check the patient will be able to follow the post-surgical dressing protocol that follows the surgery, including ensuring they have appropriate footwear for post- surgical discharge	the critical importance of full patient involvement in managing their wound
	undertake pre-surgical tests including pulse, O2 saturation, blood pressure	how to undertake pre-surgical tests and document them accurately



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional by preparing the instrumentation for the administration of local anaesthesia	what equipment is needed for the safe administration of local anaesthesia
	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional by handling any medicines required once they have been prepared	
	position the patient for the administration of local anaesthesia to minimise patient discomfort	how to maintain patient comfort and safety during local anaesthesia
	reassure the patient during anaesthesia and throughout the procedure, maintaining a relaxed but professional environment	the importance of your role in maintaining patient well-being during surgery
	monitor the patient throughout, escalating any concerns to the registered professional	how to check on the patient and what changes you need to escalate to colleagues



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	if necessary, safely move the patient to the operating area and position in accordance with local protocols	how to safely move the patient within the clinical area, if this is needed
	support the podiatrist/registered health care professional in gloving and gowning, using a strict no-touch protocol	how to support the podiatrist/registered health care professional undertaking the surgery in donning sterile gown and gloves
	assist the podiatrist/registered health care professional in draping the surgical area	how to support the podiatrist/registered health care professional undertaking the surgery in draping the surgical area without compromising the sterile field
	using a strict no-touch protocol provide additional items as required by the podiatrist/registered health care professional e.g. dressings, additional instrumentation	how to provide additional materials as required using strict no touch protocols
	keep a strict note of the time used for a range of activities eg tourniquet application, application of caustic	the importance of monitoring the time taken for critical interventions for patient safety



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	if necessary, support the podiatrist/ registered health care professional in the application of urgent treatment if there is a clinical emergency	how to administer basic life support and how to summon help
	support the patient, and their carer, during the immediate post-operative phase	how to sensitively meet the needs of patients and carers
	following the surgery, check on any dressings for any sign of haemorrhage and if necessary, alert the registered professional	what to look for when checking a post-surgical dressing
	support the patient in their preparations to leave the clinical area, ensuring they have understood the post-surgical advice, the indications for raising a concern prior to their first post-surgical appointment, how to make an emergency appointment	what is needed from the patient on the immediate post-surgical days and the importance of checking that they know how to obtain emergency care if needed



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Clinical Standards

Clinical domain	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
6.0 Assisting in theatre eg. nail surgery in a community setting	ensure the patient has written post-surgical advice and a follow up appointment	the need for clear standardised written information to back up any verbal advice as patients will rely on this
	using local protocols, safely restore the clinical area and arrange for the removal of soiled instrumentation and drapes and disposal of single use items	local health and safety protocols including the safe disposal of soiled materials and of sharps

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Acknowledgements

HEE would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organisations for their valued contribution to developing these Standards.

Members of the Standards Writing Group

The following are the members of the Standards Writing Group.

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Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

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Foot Health Practitioner

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Acknowledgements



Acknowledgements

Members of the Foot Health Standards Education Group (FHSEG)

The following are the members of FHSEG which oversaw the development of the Standards.

Angela Abbott (Retired)

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NHS Foundation Trust

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Acknowledgements



Acknowledgements

Members of the Foot Health Consortium

The following are the members of the consortium of foot health leaders who provided strategic leadership for the work.

Beverley Harden

Allied Health Professions Lead, Health Education England,
Deputy Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, England,
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Foreword

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Clinical Standards

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Acknowledgements