

Development of a Podiatry Led GP Diabetic Foot Screening Service In Central Lancashire

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Background: Increasing podiatry waiting-lists, some patients were not screened others received multiple foot screens by various professionals. Implementation of Local diabetes guidelines, Various staff screening patients, so there was no consistency in quality of screening and education. confusion when podiatry found a different risk category from the one the patient's practice found. Training sessions were either poorly attended or cancelled and some staff had left part way through due to working commitments. Following the successful implementation with the Preston locality, Chorley and South Ribble GP practices came on board with the service. 23 out of 28 practices initially involved, currently this is now 60 GP practices across the Central Lancashire area.

Benefits to Patients: A quality consistent approach to screening and foot health education, each session - 20 minutes per patient to include screening and 1:1 education. Syllabus for education based on NICE January 2004 - Management of the diabetic foot. Patients given written literature as per their risk category. Direct referral access to the podiatry service and to the consultant led multidisciplinary foot clinic. Independent service with registered podiatrists carrying out the screening. Access to patient's medical details on computer - aids risk assessment. **Benefits to GP Practices:** Based on QOF (Quality and Objectives Framework) data, sessions based on practice diabetic population. Releases practice nurse time. Robust service to ensure practices gained their QOF targets. Improved networking between the podiatry service and GP practices. Podiatry service provide the podiatry staff. **Benefits to Podiatry Service:** Decreased waiting lists, No routine diabetic foot screening held in podiatry clinics. GP practice - book appointments and provide facility in practice, GP practices follow-up non-attenders, GP practices provide the facilities, No podiatry treatments provided in GP practice, access to the practice computer system to facilitate the screening process'