

Ref. No: FOI2639
Date: 24/06/2026
Subject: Acute care, Multidisciplinary Diabetic Footcare Clinics -
Staffing and Resourcing

REQUEST

I would like to request information relating to the Multidisciplinary Diabetic Footcare Clinic(s) in the trust. Can you please provide me with the following information:

1. How many Multidisciplinary Diabetic Footcare clinics operate within the trust?
2. Confirm which hospital(s) the teams/clinics operate out of.
3. What days do the clinics operate and what are the opening hours?
4. Do the clinics provide;
 - a. Direct Specialist Access - yes/no
 - b. Next Day Appointments - yes/no
 - c. Patient self-referral - yes/no
5. How frequently do the following specialists attend diabetic foot clinics;
 - a. Outpatient Podiatrist
 - b. Inpatient Podiatrist
 - c. Diabetologist
 - d. Vascular Surgeon
 - e. Microbiologist
 - f. Podiatric Surgeon
 - g. Orthopaedic Surgeon (please specify if surgeon is foot and ankle specialist)
 - h. Orthotist
 - i. Plaster technicians
6. What is the current wait time for an appointment at the Multidisciplinary Diabetic Footcare Clinic(s) in the Trust?
7. Please provide details of any other dedicated diabetic footcare services in the trust that is not covered by the above.

RESPONSE

The responses below for Whiston and St Helens Hospitals

1. We run 5 diabetes footcare clinics a week
2. The Multidisciplinary Diabetes Foot clinics take place in the Diabetes Centre at St Helens Hospital
3.

Monday p.m.	13.15 – 17.00
Tuesday a.m.	08.45 – 13.00
Wednesday a.m.	08.45 – 13.00
Thursday p.m.	13.15 – 17.00
Friday a.m.	08.45 – 13.00
4.
 - a. yes
 - b. not routinely, urgent referrals can sometime be accommodated next day
 - c. yes, this is in the process of being set up
5.
 - a. all clinics have an outpatient podiatrist present
 - b. the inpatient and outpatient podiatrist are the same people (part of the same team, they cover both inpatients and the outpatient clinics)
 - c. 90% of foot clinics have a diabetologist present (10% are podiatry led)
 - d. a vascular surgeon attends the multidisciplinary foot clinic alternate weeks for the Monday p.m., Tuesday a.m., and Friday a.m. clinics (i.e. average 1.5 clinics / week are joint clinics with the vascular team present).
 - e. the microbiologist does not attend foot clinic, although they do attend to weekly Diabetic Foot MDT (held in the radiology dept on Monday a.m. – see Q7 below)
 - f. we don't have a podiatric surgeon
 - g. an orthopaedic surgeon (foot and ankle specialist) attends once a month on a Monday afternoon
 - h. an orthotist attends foot clinic once a month on a Monday afternoon in the clinic also attended by the foot and ankle orthopaedic team (this is the clinic with most marked foot deformity – charcot etc.)
 - i. we don't have a plaster technician in the Diabetes Foot clinics although the podiatry team are trained in total contact casting
6. the wait time for the multidisciplinary diabetes foot clinic is presently 3-4 weeks for new patients although we are working to reduce this to improve access times

7. We have a weekly diabetic foot MDT held in the radiology dept on a Monday morning, attended by diabetologists, podiatry, microbiology, interventional radiology, sonographers, vascular consultants, vascular specialist nurses and microbiology.

The podiatry team also offer total contact casting outside of the scheduled clinic times stated above.

The responses below for Southport and Ormskirk

1. For S+O site a Multidisciplinary Diabetic Foot Clinic at SDGH on a fortnightly basis at Southport Hospital on a Monday PM 1330-1700
2. Southport and Ormskirk
3. See question 1 answer
- 4a – yes
4b – no (but depends on clinical urgency - clinic is only fortnightly)
4c – No
5. a. Outpatient Podiatrist - attends but will co-ordinate with podiatry colleague
b. Inpatient Podiatrist - attends but will co-ordinate with podiatry colleague
c. Diabetologist – Not present - But diabetes specialist nurse present at every clinic
d. Vascular Surgeon - Every clinic
e. Microbiologist - Contactable for input as required
f. Podiatric Surgeon - Not available
g. Orthopaedic Surgeon - Does not attend but contactable for input as required (foot-ankle specialist)
h. Orthotist - Does not attend
i. Plaster technicians - Available as required
6. No formal waiting times available; can be flexed depending on clinical urgency
7. All inpatient admissions with diabetes foot problems are reviewed by inpatient podiatry and diabetes specialist nurse (foot).