



# University of Brighton

## Job specification

### Occupational profile:

Podiatrists are registered healthcare professionals specialising in the lower limb (feet, ankles, legs), providing high quality clinical care to people of all ages. A Podiatrist's job is to work to protect people's feet, providing preventative advice, care, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of a range of problems affecting the lower limb. Keeping mobile and retaining independence affects the quality of people's lives. Podiatrists aim to reduce the impact of disability and dysfunction and have a role in rehabilitation. They play a pivotal part in reducing the risk of amputation, infection, pain, deformity and hospital admissions. They will undertake a range of podiatry interventions including wound care, routine skin and nail care, nail surgery, scalpel work or care for long term conditions. They provide musculoskeletal assessment and then instigate a treatment plan to improve or enhance movement or reduce pain. They prescribe functional insoles for the management of foot / lower limb conditions.

### Responsibilities and duties of the role:

As a Podiatrist, you will be an independent, reflective practitioner, accountable for your own actions and decisions while working in line with professional and regulatory guidance. You will ensure that your own skills and knowledge are up to date and that you are working in line with current evidence-based best practice. You will have excellent communication skills, able to deliver potentially upsetting or unwelcome information sensitively. You will assess, diagnose and treat people's lower limbs, offering professional advice on the care of the lower limb. You will treat people across the age range to prevent and reduce foot problems, raising awareness and offering patient education about the key issues they need to be aware of at different life stages. As examples you may: work with children with musculoskeletal disorders; treat patients who are living with arthritis, diabetes or circulation problems; with people who may have lost sensation in their foot and are at risk of amputation; request and interpret diagnostics, such as x-rays, assess patients who have sports or stress injuries or carry out minor procedures under local anaesthetic, such as nail surgery. You will offer advice on footwear and promote public health. You will work in a range of inter-professional settings such as hospitals, clinics, health centres, home settings, education, research, voluntary sector, industry, GP surgeries or private practice. You could work with a team of people, including other healthcare professionals (such as doctors, GPs, nurses, dietitians or physiotherapists) or independently. You have a professional responsibility to contribute to the training and development of the future workforce and may supervise the work and development of others.



## Day to day activities include:

- Assessing patients, differentially diagnosing conditions
- Agreeing and negotiating treatment plans in partnership with the patient
- Treating lower limb conditions such as nail and skin pathology, musculoskeletal conditions, pain and wounds
- Dealing with people with challenging medical and social conditions and their complications, providing evidence-based interventions
- Offering holistic patient-centred health education
- Clinical management and administration including keeping records, appointment management, stock control and maintaining the clinical environment

Values	Behaviours
You will be professional, skilled, confident, knowledgeable, caring, compassionate, conscientious, honest, trustworthy	You will treat people with dignity, respecting individual's diversity, beliefs, culture, needs, values, privacy and preferences. You will show respect and empathy for those you work with, have the courage to challenge areas of concern and work to evidence based best practice. You will also be adaptable, reflective, reliable and consistent, show discretion, resilience, self-awareness and demonstrate leadership.



	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
Person- centred practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• protect and keep people safe, applying current legislation to promote their rights, choices and wishes, treating them with dignity and respect, explain treatment options and risks/ benefit/ prognosis including no treatment to obtain and document informed consent for podiatry care</li><li>• work collaboratively with patients and others</li><li>• communicate effectively and appropriately, listening carefully to determine all the factors affecting the patient’s foot health in the context of their medical and social history and ability to self-care</li><li>• establish person-centred podiatry agreed treatment plans, encouraging informed decision-making</li><li>• encourage and enable appropriate self-care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• legislation, policies and procedures relating to safeguarding, ethics, equality, diversity and inclusion</li><li>• what is meant by informed consent and how to secure it across the age range and in line with cognitive ability</li><li>• ways to work effectively with families, carers and other teams</li><li>• the importance of communication in plain English using a range of verbal and non-verbal communication techniques appropriate to age, emotional or mental state or cognitive ability</li><li>• what is meant by compassionate person-centred care including ways to engage people in their own care</li><li>• podiatry treatment planning processes including the risks and benefits of treatment plans</li></ul>



	You will be able to:	You will know and understand:
Clinical Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• select and use appropriate assessment and treatment techniques safely, effectively and ethically e.g. interpreting medical history; recognising potential consequences of treatment; carrying out mechanical debridement to remove painful, dead, damaged, or infected tissue of intact and ulcerated skin; taping and similar adjunctive therapies; carrying out surgical procedures for skin and nail conditions; managing nail disorders, or prescribing foot orthoses</li> <li>• observe, assess, diagnose, monitor and treat a patient's lower limb, reviewing, updating and adapting or ceasing treatment as required</li> <li>• use a systematic approach to formulate and test a preferred diagnosis</li> <li>• work with a range of conditions encouraging mobility and independence</li> <li>• perform treatments, including minor surgery under local anaesthetic</li> <li>• manage medicines including accessing, supplying and administering prescription-only medicines</li> <li>• use basic life support skills to deal safely with clinical emergencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the structure and function of the human body including the biomechanics of the lower limb and the impact it has on the whole body</li> <li>• the importance of mobility and how it affects life experience</li> <li>• a range of clinical needs relevant to the lower limb such as acute or chronic neuropathies, long term conditions, or musculoskeletal disorders including dealing with people with a degenerative condition or whose diagnosis or prognosis is worsening</li> <li>• a range of screening techniques such as diabetic risk stratification, vascular and neurological assessments or the taking of swabs or tissue samples</li> <li>• ways to use your judgement when observing, assessing, diagnosing, monitoring and treating the patient</li> <li>• theoretical basis of podiatry interventions and diagnosis including when to adapt or cease treatment</li> <li>• clinical reasoning and the processes that underpin decision-making and problem solving</li> <li>• possible effects of anaesthesia including dosage calculation</li> <li>• when minor surgery may be required</li> <li>• medicines management within the limits of your competence as outlined in legislation and the HCPC requirements</li> <li>• current basic life support practices and how to apply them</li> <li>• when and where to refer</li> <li>• podiatry discharge procedures and protocols</li> </ul>