

Professional Podiatry Services

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COVID-19 Policy

The health and safety of both patients and podiatrists is paramount. Infection control standards at Feet first podiatry Bolton are always high, however additional measures are taken during COVID-19. This document is to be used in combination with documents from other organisations such as The College of Podiatry and Public Health England.

Additional Infection Control Between each appointment to wipe with diluted bleach or antiseptic wipes.

• Door knobs

• Entire treatment couch

• Patients’ chair in clinic

• Podiatrist’s chair

• Keyboard

• Credit Card machine

• Pen

• Treatment unit

• Light

• Drawer handles, drill, Doppler and any other items touched in the course of treatment

• Skirting board between patients’ chair in clinic and door

Also to mop ﬂoor with diluted bleach or ﬂoor wipes.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The College of Podiatry currently directs podiatrists to use tables 2 and 4 when deciding which PPE to use:

• Gloves

• Apron

• IIR ﬂuid resistant masks

• Eye or face mask, depending on risk. Risk factors to be considered are which procedure, likelihood of patient being contagious and risk factors of the podiatrist for contracting COVID-19.

 The College of Podiatry suggests that a FFP2 or FFP3 mask will provide superior protection, therefore a combined IIR and FFP3 mask is ideal. The College advises that a face visor would, if this combination is not available, provide additional protection.

Before booking the appointment The podiatrist will question the patient and, if an existing patient, refer to previous notes to ensure the patient meets the current criteria for treatment listed in the “Decision Tree for Independent Practitioners” and the “Treatment Grid during COVID-19”.

Before the appointment • The COVID-19 triage form is completed.

• The patient consents to attending the appointment.

• It is explained to the patient that they must wait in the car until their allotted time, that they may be required to wear a mask, that they will need to wash their hands upon attending, that 2 metres distance will be maintained where possible, that they will need to attend on their own and that they will need to pay by card.

On Arrival to the appointment

• The patient waits in the car until their appointment time

• The patient is given a mask, if appropriate

• The patient is directed to wash their hands and reminded to turn the tap oﬀ with towel.

Changes to the clinic

• As much as possible, surfaces are clear to allow for easy cleaning

• Pillows to be made a wipe able material or covered with wipe able or disposable covers

• Doors and windows left open unless ambient temperature is intolerably low

• Sign on door about COVID-19 guidelines

• Tissues and hand sanitiser available to patients

• Lavatory light to be left on

• Gaps between patients’ appointments to avoid cross over and to allow additional time to clean.

• Patients who are particularly vulnerable are to be seen at the start of the session.

Podiatrist’s Attire • Clean scrubs and socks to be put on in clinic

• Shoes to be kept in clinic

 • After session, scrubs and socks to be placed into a pillow case and put directly into washing machine upon bringing them into the house

• After session, podiatrist to go directly home and shower, laundering clothes that have been worn between clinic and house.

Updated 17th May 2020

References:

COP “PPE Clariﬁcation May 2020”

COP “PPE inaccessibility guidance”

Public Health England “Additional considerations, in addition to standard infection prevention and control precautions” table 4 “Any setting. Direct patient/resident care assessing an individual that is not currently a possible or conﬁrmed case2 (within 2 metres