



The COLLEGE
of PODIATRY

www.feetforlife.org

The three C's of good practice in podiatric surgery

CHOICE

CLARIFICATION

CONFIRMATION



Guidelines for Podiatric Surgeons

Principles of ethical representation

Purpose

This short leaflet emphasises the process expected of all podiatric surgeons to show their training and professional status when patients consult them for surgery.

A three stage process is outlined to ensure adherence to sound and safe practice from initial patient contact to treatment.



CHOICE

Stage One

Patients are referred into the healthcare market more often by a doctor in general practice. The modern nature of the health service may mean that referral may be to a podiatric surgeon.

Providing information to support patient choice

Podiatric surgeons' online websites and social networking facilities should provide a clear statement that podiatric surgeons are not "registered medical practitioners i.e medical doctors". This statement and associated supporting information is considered mandatory by the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists

(SCP). An explanation of the training, qualifications, country of qualification and scope of practice of the podiatric surgeon should also be provided along with a link to the SCP and HCPC website¹.

Patients should be provided with this information, preferably in written form, prior to their initial consultation or, at the latest, during the initial consultation².

CLARIFICATION

Stage Two

At the initial consultation all podiatric surgery clinicians should introduce themselves and clarify with the patient that they have received and understood the information described in stage one. This should be documented in the notes by the clinician. If this is not the case, then such information should be provided and explained verbally.

Podiatric surgeons work in different centres and documentation such as consent forms, radiology requests and sickness absence certificates may vary. Clinicians must annotate the page with the appropriate title, clearly placing a line through any medical title i.e. doctor, so as to make clear the designation of the person treating the foot.

CONFIRMATION

Stage Three

When a plan of surgical treatment is agreed, the podiatric surgeon will move to consent. At this point the podiatric surgeon should re-check that the aforementioned information has been exchanged and **stage 1 – choice and stage 2 clarification** are fulfilled at the last point of contact prior to surgery.

Podiatric surgeons should use the section on the consent form where reference is made to leaflets/information provided to ensure the patient agrees that they have received information (**given in stage 1**) about the podiatric surgeon's designation³.

References

1. HCPC website information provided on the website www.hpc-uk.org
2. Patient information leaflet "What is a Podiatric Surgeon?"
3. SCP Code of Conduct, Page 12 and Appendix E www.feetforlife.org

Principles of Good Practice

All podiatric surgeons should work within their knowledge, professional competence, physical abilities and the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrist's Code of Conduct.

Misleading claims should not be made.

Trust arises from the public and colleagues when they believe that podiatric surgeons act honestly and fairly at all times.

Podiatric surgeons must be able to demonstrate that they have accurately informed the patient regarding their status and qualifications and provided the relevant written information.

If the patient should decline a podiatric surgery service, the podiatric surgeon must explain that the patient is entitled to another professional opinion (podiatric or medical).

With the compliments of:



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