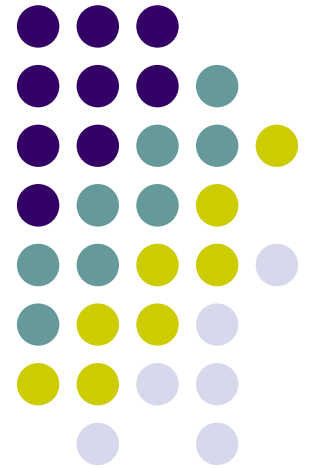


Podiatry services available in NSW

Natalie Adams
Area Director Podiatry
Sydney South West Area Health
Service (Eastern Zone)



What do podiatrists do?



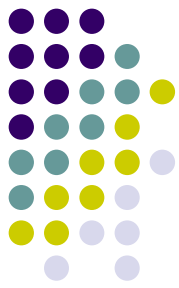
- Podiatrists diagnose and manage conditions of the foot.
- Services provided by podiatrists include; general toenail care, treatment of painful and problem toenails, removal of corns and callous, treatment of cracked heels, footwear advice, assessment of overall foot health (eg. circulation and nerve function), orthotic therapy, specialised care for high risk feet.

Podiatry Services



- PUBLIC – hospital, community centre, no cost to the patient
- PRIVATE – podiatrist in private practice, paid for by patient, covered by private health funds
- SUBSIDISED – podiatrist in private practice, cost covered by supporting agency eg. DVA, DADHC Burwood service, Medicare

PUBLIC Podiatry Services



- Access to service is prioritised and patients with high risk foot status are given priority
- Some hospital services are limited to high risk clients only
- Often there will be a waiting list for initial appointment
- Some services have a small cost for materials, dressings, etc.

PRIVATE Podiatry Services



- All podiatry practices offer general foot care
- Some practices have a waiting list however, most can allocate an initial appointment with minimal wait
- Some practitioners specialise in orthotic therapy or other specialty fields within podiatry
- Some practices offer a home visit service

SUBSIDISED Podiatry Services



- DVA – Dept of Veterans Affairs Gold Card holders can access private podiatry care at no cost
- DADHC Burwood service – available to residents of the Burwood LGA, was set up as a 12 month trial and soon to roll out to other LGA's within Inner West Sydney

SUBSIDISED Podiatry Services



- MEDICARE – Medicare rebates for podiatry were introduced in July 2004 and are now available under the CDM framework (Chronic Disease Management)
- Patients under an EPC (Enhanced Primary Care) plan can access Medicare rebates for up to 5 visits per calendar year to an allied health provider

SUBSIDISED Podiatry Services



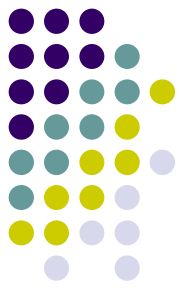
- Patients with chronic conditions or complex care needs qualify for rebates. The CDM items apply to treatment of people with **asthma, cancer, arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, mental illness**, and other chronic medical conditions that would benefit from a team care arrangement.
- Your GP can initiate a care plan to allow you to access Podiatry through the CDM

Podiatry in Residential Care



- Most residential aged care facilities have a regular podiatry service
- “Low level of care” clients are usually required to pay for their podiatry
- The facility should provide, at no cost to the client, podiatry care for “higher level of care” clients

Podiatry Workforce

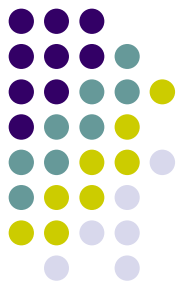


- The ageing of Australia’s “baby boomers”, with longer life expectancies and fewer offspring than previous generations, accentuates the impact of an ageing population. In the past century, the proportion of the population aged over 65 has risen from just over 4 % to nearly 12.5 %. By 2042, around 24.5 % of Australia’s population is expected to be aged over 65 [Budget 02-03]

Podiatry Workforce



- Podiatric services offer a range of benefits for a variety of community groups. Podiatrists have an important role to play in maintaining individual mobility and independence by alleviating painful foot conditions, particularly for those aged over 65, for whom an estimated 85% require a range of podiatric services (Robinson, 1989).



Podiatry Workforce

- NSW Podiatry Registration statistics (number of registered podiatrists)

1999 – 655

2000 - 658

2001 – 693

2002 – 720

2003 – 724

2005 - 783

Podiatry Workforce



- “We are very keen to see action on the education issue, as podiatry has experienced first hand the mismatch between the health needs of the community and the resourcing of the profession in terms of funding and places for the education of podiatrists. While the podiatry workforce is struggling to meet community needs, we have faced course closures, which will only serve to reduce the long term podiatry workforce further.” Alison Petchell (CEO Australasian Podiatry Council)

“But I just need help to cut my toenails !!!!



"GhetToes"

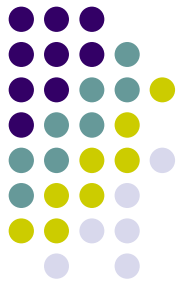
Basic Foot Care



- Foot care nurses
- Pedicurists / beauticians
- Family / carers

It is recognised that alternative services will provide basic nail care for clients with no underlying health issues related to the foot or leg

QUESTIONS ????????



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