Transport and home visits
If you are not housebound but have severe mobility problems, transport can be arranged for you to attend a clinic. You can discuss this at the time of making your appointment. If you do not qualify for NHS transport, in Merton you can use Merton Community Transport (see below for contact details).

If you are housebound and completely immobile, we can visit you in your own home or residential care home.

Merton Community Transport:
020 8648 7727
www.mct.uk.com

How do I access footcare services if I don’t qualify for NHS treatment?
NHS Sutton and Merton works in partnership with local organisations to make it easier for residents to access basic footcare services such as nail-cutting.

There is a charge but the services are non-profit-making. Full details are available from the services.

Age Concern Merton (Sole Mates)
020 8648 5792
alison@ageconcernmerton.org.uk

Age Concern Sutton
020 8770 4092
admin@ageconcernsutton.org.uk

You can also access footcare from private podiatrists or chiropodists, who will charge for their services. You can find these in Yellow Pages or online. You should check whether they are registered with the relevant body, the Health Professions Council.

Contact details
The main contact number is 020 8407 3608.

However, you need to be referred to the service by your GP or other healthcare or social care professional. Once your referral has been accepted by the service, you will be contacted (normally by letter), asking that you call to make an appointment.

More information
Age UK produces useful information and a leaflet on looking after your feet. Look for the Fitter Feet section of the website:
www.ageuk.org.uk
Or phone the Age UK advice line, 0800 169 6565.

There are additional leaflets produced by the NHS in Sutton and Merton:
- Guidelines on basic footcare
- How to get help looking after your feet in Sutton and Merton

These are available from the podiatry service or on:
www.suttonandmerton.nhs.uk
NHS Sutton and Merton podiatry service
Podiatry (often also referred to as chiropody) is the care and treatment of conditions affecting the lower limbs and feet. The NHS Sutton and Merton podiatry team aims to maintain and improve your mobility and help you to stay independent.

The NHS podiatry service does not include basic footcare such as routine nail-cutting unless you have other conditions that meet the referral criteria.

All clinics are run by podiatrists registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC), and the service is free of charge.

The treatment we offer
The service provides podiatry based on clinical need and offers the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of conditions such as:

- Lower limb and foot dysfunction, which may result in painful leg and foot symptoms, for example a sporting injury
- Dermatological (skin) conditions including corns, callus and persistent or painful verrucae
- ‘High risk’ feet, linked to conditions such as poor circulation, nerve damage, and people with diabetes who have additional complications

How do I access podiatry services?
You need to be referred by your family doctor (GP) or another healthcare professional. In addition, community organisations may be able to advise on the referral process, where appropriate.

The doctor or other person referring you will need relevant medical information, to ensure that you can be assessed properly for the podiatry service.

Podiatry clinics are held at Wideway Medical Centre in Pollards Hill, Patrick Doody Clinic in Wimbledon, Robin Hood Lane Health Centre in Sutton, and Priory Crescent Clinic in north Cheam.

Please note that if you attend a GP outside Sutton and Merton, you will be referred to a podiatry clinic in that area, for example Croydon or Wandsworth.

In an emergency
An emergency clinic for residents of Sutton and Merton is available for patients with urgent conditions that place the foot or leg at risk, for example:

- Ulcerations
- Bacterial or spreading infections
- Removal of foreign bodies
- Diabetic or immune-suppressed patients who are concerned about their feet
- Severe pain due to injury.

If you are a diabetic patient and think you need to access the emergency clinic, you can contact the diabetes service on: 0208 296 2111.

In an emergency you can also contact:
- Your own GP
- The GP out of hours service, Caring Round the Clock 0845 603 1087
- NHS Direct 0845 46 47
- The Wilson Health Centre GP with walk-in services open 8am-8pm, 7 days a week 0203 458 5100
- NHS walk-in centres:
  - St George’s Hospital 020 8700 0505
  - Croydon 020 8666 0555
  - Your nearest accident and emergency department.