

Treatment Decisions – IOCP Traffic Light Advice

This 'traffic light' tool in respect of Primary Care Podiatry and Foot Health Practice ** is designed to aid you in your professional decision-making process. It should be read in conjunction with the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics as well as current guidelines of Personal Protection Equipment at www.hcpc-uk.org/covid-19/advice/registrants/

You must conduct and record a risk assessment for each patient contact whilst the current COVID-19 pandemic persists, and you are reminded that it is likely many of the requirements will still be responsibly required post-crisis. Your initial review of the patient's COVID-19 status to check if safe to treat should take place either via telephone, similar non-contact methods or whilst fully maintaining social distancing immediately prior to any closer treatment contact.

**** Treatments of symptomatic individuals is not deemed appropriate outside of secondary care. Appropriate contact with 111 should be made unless you are a secondary care practitioner with access to full specialist facilities.**

STOP - DO NOT HAVE PRIMARY CARE PATIENT CONTACT IF:

- You or a Patient are apparently symptomatic with COVID-19 or believe they or you may have contracted COVID-19 unless proved negative by an officially approved test. See: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/eligibility>
- You do not have the CURRENT recommended level of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for both you and if at any time recommended by UK Government, for your patient, additionally see: www.iocp.org.uk
- The treatment environment has factors outside your direct control that may put you or the patient at Risk, ie: no animals or other persons should be in the treatment room and there must be no uncontrolled access etc during home visits.
- Your risk assessment does not address ALL of the above factors.

ONLY PROCEED TO TREAT WITH EXTREME CAUTION IF:

- You have completed and recorded a risk assessment and have the necessary PPE (see above)
- It is demonstrably necessary for the health or personal benefit of the patient to offer treatment
- You can justify that the location (domiciliary or clinic) is appropriate for the safe provision of your service.
- You can ensure that you take the necessary instrument sterilisation procedures/personal hygiene measures/disposal (or sanitation) of PPE post treatment if continuing to see further clients. You must not become a vector of infection.
- You ensure you FULLY record the patient contact and the reason for the treatment.

GO – UNRESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

- Telephone contact with Patients to give advice
- Sending patients newsletters to inform them of ways they can help themselves
- Video consultations with patients including arranging medicines supply / prescriptions **IF APPROPRIATE AND CLINICALLY JUSTIFIED BY YOUR FULL CONSULTATION WITH PATIENT WHICH MUST FORM PART OF YOUR RECORDS.**