I have been Diabetic on insulin for over 45 years because of this I see my podiatrist regularly.

About 5 years ago I experienced some pain in the base of my right foot. Worried about the pain I asked for an emergency appointment which was made.

My podiatrist saw the base of my foot turning black. She immediately referred me to the hospital's Podiatry Department who arranged an immediate scan. The scan revealed a blockage from the knee to my foot. The prognosis was not good. The Consultant said there was a possibility I could lose my leg. I was admitted to the Vascular Ward at once. I rang my family to prepare them for the worst. I had the angioplasty procedure the following day. It was successful. I was so happy.

On release from the hospital I was still under the care of the podiatriasts.The healing process for my foot took well over a year with weekly visits by ambulance. I was hospitalised four times during that period. I did lose a toe and part of my heel but that is a small price to pay to save my leg from amputation. I now wear hand made orthopaedic boots provided by the NHS which are not unattractive and very comfortable.

The wider help I received the two man ambulance crew, my constant blood tests , the many.X-rays , the Orthopaedic Dept.to see to my heel ,antibiotics for my big toe and heel , the District Nurses visiting daily for six months to administer them were all done under the authority of the Podiatric Department. All that care for one foot.

I owe the quality of life I lead now solely to the care of the podiatrists. I am now 81 years of age. Through them I am independent . I can still stay in my apartment (there are are 21 steps). I love my life. Whilst I may not be able to climb Everest I am able to enjoy a pleasant walk each day.