

PODIATRIC SYMPTOMS AND CONDITIONS REQUIRING EMERGENCY ATTENTION

The following information can help you decide how urgent your podiatric problem may be.

Symptoms and Conditions Requiring 911 Alert and Emergency Department Care (when you cannot get transportation to the Emergency Room)

Acute Trauma to lower extremity (thigh, leg, ankle or foot) resulting in:

- Significant loss of blood.
- Compound fracture (bone protruding through skin) or dislocation (i.e. leg, ankle or foot positional abnormality).
- Inability to rise or bear any weight on the extremity with no one to transport patient to emergency department (i.e. probable fracture or severe sprain).
- Leg, ankle, or foot becomes suddenly numb and swollen (i.e. compartment syndrome or, more rarely, DVT).

Symptoms and Conditions Requiring Emergency Department Care (when you or someone else can transport you to the Emergency Room)

- Toes, foot or ankle becoming bluish gray or black in color (i.e. increasing ischemia with developing gangrene).
- Sudden inability to move leg, ankle or foot (i.e. complete tendon rupture, or central nervous system or peripheral nervous system pathology).
- Swollen and numb leg or foot. May develop suddenly or gradually. May or may not be associated with identifiable trauma (i.e. compartment syndrome).
- Sudden decreased ability to walk associated with shortness of breath or with pain in the back or pain running down the thigh (i.e. acute congestive heart failure, radiculopathy, or other central nervous system or peripheral nervous system pathology).

Symptoms and Conditions Requiring SAME DAY Podiatric Physician Care – (when a Podiatrist can see you the same day you notice the problem) - If not, Emergency Department Care is Required

- Red streaks on toes, foot or ankle associated with pain or swelling (i.e. ascending cellulitis).
- Sudden numbness in toes, feet or ankles (i.e. compartment syndrome, CNS or PNS pathology).
- Cuts, burns, wounds, or other injuries of the toes, feet or ankles.
- Trauma causing acute pain, swelling or positional abnormality of toe, foot or ankle (i.e. suspected fracture, dislocation, tendon rupture or acute sprain of toe foot or ankle).
- Severe, sudden pain and/or swelling in toes, feet or ankles without obvious cause (i.e. cellulitis, abscess, crystal arthropathy, other acute joint inflammatory conditions, DVT, CHF, among many others less common diagnoses).
- Cold, painful foot that becomes more pale or bluish gray in color and hurts more when leg is raised (i.e. ischemia becoming worse with possible onset of gangrene).
- Acute post surgical problems including abnormal bleeding, wound site becoming disfigured, unexpected swelling or pain, rupture of sutures with wound opening up, or any other problem that the surgeon or staff had not told the patient to expect.