

November Health Tips

Health Ministries

Diabetes and Foot Care

Foot Care

Inspect your feet every day, and seek care early if you do get a foot injury. Make sure your health care provider checks your feet at least once a year - more often if you have foot problems. Your health care provider should also give you a list and explain the do's and don'ts of foot care. Most people can prevent any serious foot problem by following some simple steps. So let's begin taking care of your feet today.

Caring For Your Feet

There are many things you can do to keep your feet healthy.

- **Take care of your diabetes.** Work with your health care team to keep your blood glucose in your target range.
- **Check your feet every day.** Look at your bare feet for red spots, cuts, swelling, and blisters. If you cannot see the bottoms of your feet, use a mirror or ask someone for help.
- **Be more active.** Plan your physical activity program with your health team.
- **Ask your doctor about Medicare coverage** for special shoes.
- **Wash your feet every day.** Dry them carefully, especially between the toes.
- **Keep your skin soft and smooth.** Rub a thin coat of skin lotion over the tops and bottoms of your feet, but not between your toes. Read more about skin care.
- **Trim them when needed.** if not see a professional. Toenails should be trimmed straight across and the edges files with an emery board or nail file.
- **Wear shoes and socks at all times.** Never walk barefoot. Wear comfortable shoes that fit well and protect your feet. Check inside your shoes before wearing them. Make sure the lining is smooth and there are no objects inside.
- **Protect your feet from hot and cold.** Wear shoes at the beach or on hot pavement. Don't put your feet into hot water. Test water before putting your feet in it just as you would before bathing a baby. Never use hot water bottles, heating pads, or electric blankets. You can burn your feet without realizing it.

- **Keep the blood flowing to your feet.** Put your feet up when sitting. Wiggle your toes and move your ankles up and down for 5 minutes, two (2) or three (3) times a day. Don't cross your legs for long periods of time. Don't smoke.
- **Get started now.** Begin taking good care of your feet today. Set a time every day to check your feet.



Source: American Diabetes Association

The material above is general medical information provided for informative and educational purposes only. General medical advice can never substitute for personal, professional advice given based on your medical history, your family medical history, your medication history, and other factors. Because these factors are different for every person, you should always consult your physician before relying on this information. These health tips should not be construed as establishing a patient-physician relationship between you and Premier Health, If you need medical assistance, make an appointment with a physician, or call 9-1-1 immediately if it is an emergency.