

Foot Care Assistant (Micro-credential)

Level 4, 25 credits

Micro-credential number (128794-1)

Reporting Code (5191-1)

Toitū te Waiora

**Community, Health, Education and Social Services Workforce
Development Council**

(MOE 6048)

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Listing

Title

Foot Care Assistant (Micro-credential)

Level and credits

Level 4

25 credits

Classification (NZSCED)

061713 Health > Rehabilitation Therapies > Podiatry

Purpose

This micro-credential provides learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide basic foot care to individuals in healthcare settings under the guidance of a registered podiatrist.

Outcome

On successful completion of this micro-credential, learners/ākonga will be able to understand the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of a foot care assistant, be able to perform basic foot and nail care procedures and demonstrate safe and effective foot care practices in a healthcare setting.

Learners/ākonga will also be capable of identifying conditions that require immediate help or referral to a podiatrist, and applying communication, observation, and documentation skills when caring for individuals with foot care needs.

Learners/ākonga will have knowledge of:

- Anatomy and physiology of the foot, including pathological foot, nail, and skin conditions.
- Culturally appropriate approaches to foot care in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Roles and responsibilities of foot care assistants and podiatrists, including health and safety practices.
- Infection control policies, client confidentiality, and supervision requirements.
- Effective observation, communication, and documentation techniques in foot care settings.

Learners/ākonga will be skilled in:

- Conducting a foot examination.
- Performing foot and nail care procedures.
- Conducting basic foot hygiene.
- Using padding in foot and nail care procedures.
- The communication and record keeping requirements of the role.

Education pathway

This micro-credential is intended for learners/ākonga who are engaged in podiatry work under supervision within the health and wellbeing sector. Learners/ākonga may possess qualifications offered at either level 3 or level 4 (e.g. New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Level 3) with strands in Healthcare Assistance; Integrated Practice (Family and Whānau Harm); Newborn Hearing Screening; Orderly Services; Support Work; Vision Hearing Screening; and Whānau, Kin and Foster Care, or New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Advanced Care and Support) (Level 4)), or equivalent qualifications or experience in the health and wellbeing sectors.

On successful completion of this micro-credential, the learner/ākonga will be able to work as a Foot Care Assistant under broad guidance. This micro-credential does not pathway into podiatry programmes offered at degree level.

Assessment standards

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Version
40488	Perform foot care procedures	4	15	1
40489	Demonstrate safe foot care practice	4	5	1
40490	Operate within scope of practice of a foot care assistant	4	5	1

Review period

November 2026

Approval

Learning outcomes

On completion of this micro-credential, learners/ākonga will be able to:

- Perform foot care procedures.
- Demonstrate safe foot care practice.
- Operate within scope of practice of a foot care assistant.

Need and acceptability

This micro-credential is designed to offer an award to foundation-level foot care assistants who will work under the guidance of registered podiatrists performing task-oriented and skills-focused roles. The micro-credential fills a significant gap, as there are no podiatry unit or skill standards listed on the DASS or qualifications listed at sub-degree level on the NZQCF.

The development of a specialised micro-credential in foot care is urgently needed, with strong support from the podiatry industry and government agencies. New Zealand faces a severe shortage of podiatrists, with only 50 new podiatrists expected to be trained in the coming decade according to projections by Te Whatu Ora Analytics and Intelligence. This shortage is particularly concerning as the number of New Zealanders with chronic long-term conditions requiring podiatric care continues to rise placing increased demand on the health system.

Support for this initiative comes from key industry and government stakeholders, including Podiatry Services Te Whatu Ora and PodiatryNZ. It is also endorsed by the Minister of Health, who has prioritised essential skills such as nail care, sensory neuropathy testing, and vascularity assessment. Toitū Te Waiora has a commitment to building a sustainable, equitable workforce further strengthens this collaborative effort to address workforce shortages and enhance training in podiatry.

Admission

It is expected that the learner/ākonga will be working as a foot care assistant under the guidance of a registered podiatrist.

Providers must verify that international students enrolling in this micro-credential have the necessary English language proficiency to study at Level 4. Rules are outlined in section 22 and 'Appendix: Internationally Recognised English Proficiency Outcomes for International Students' in the [NZQA Programme Approval, Recognition, and Accreditation Rules 2022](#).

Credit recognition and transfer, recognition of prior learning

Providers seeking accreditation for delivery of this micro-credential will implement regulations, policies and processes described within an organisational quality management (QMS) system that will assist learners to have their relevant learning recognised and credited.

Provision for awarding credit will need to cover:

1. Cross-crediting (from another assessment standard, skill standard, micro-credential, or programme within the organisation).
2. Recognition of prior learning (credit awarded for informal or uncertificated learning).

Length and Structure

Length

This micro-credential requires a notional total of 250 hours of teaching, learning, and assessment.

Providers are expected to design a micro-credential that includes delivery mode/method and a breakdown of teaching and learning hours. This could offer learners self-directed options including: a) background reading and resources relating to podiatry, b) a range of training scenarios, and c) online tests for self-testing competencies. There must be robust systems in place to ensure learners receive and complete the material prior to the start of the taught programme. Self-directed learning is not appropriate after assessment has occurred.

This micro-credential requires learners to demonstrate competency in care of at least five patients.

All practical assessments must be conducted by a qualified podiatrist.

Structure

This micro-credential has three components:

1. Perform foot care procedures.
2. Safe foot care practices.
3. Foot care assistant scope of practice.

See details in -

Appendix 1 - Component Descriptor

Assessment methods

Provider assessment must meet the consent and moderation requirements of CMR 24 and the assessment requirements of the skill standards listed in this micro-credential.

NZQA's [Aromatawai and the Principles for assessment](#) should be used in this micro-credential - assessment must be fair, valid, consistent, and appropriate given the stated learning outcomes.

Resubmissions, re-assessments, and appeals should be considered against the provider's QMS.

Please refer to Appendix 1 – Micro-credential Component Descriptor attached to this application for further information.

Pre-assessment moderation

Providers will need to submit skill standard based assessment materials for pre-assessment moderation before they are used, as specified in the current CMR document, and outlined on the Toitū te Waiora website.

Post-assessment moderation

Provider post-assessment moderation of skill standard assessments will use methods outlined on the Toitū te Waiora website.

Further information is available at toitutewaiora.nz.

Providers are expected to have policies in place as part of their Quality Management System (QMS) to carry out their own moderation of micro-credential delivery and assessment.

Completion

All skill standards must be completed prior to award of this micro-credential.

Review process

Toitū Te Waiora will engage with the sector to review content and to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Toitū te Waiora will ensure that:

- Micro-credential content, structure and assessment is current and reflects the needs and key stakeholders in the sector, and learners.
- Micro-credential outcomes for learners, and particularly for Māori and Pasifika learners, are equitable.
- The micro-credential is amended to reflect changes in the sector (e.g. new approaches to

practice, theory, and practical application).

- Any changes made to the micro-credential add value for the sector, and learners.
- Updates to the micro-credential will reflect any changes made to skill standards 40488, 40489 and 40490.

Providers are expected to use processes stipulated in their QMS to ensure micro-credential delivery is reviewed on a regular basis. Those processes will measure and monitor the quality of outcomes for learners and stakeholders, particularly for Māori and Pacific learners.

The micro-credential will be formally reviewed by Toitū te Waiora in 2026, and then at two-yearly intervals.

Appendix 1 - Component Descriptor/s Example

Component 1 Title: Perform foot care procedures.

Level	4	Credits	15
Mode	Blended (Theoretical) Face-to-face (Practical)	Duration	150 hours
Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this component, learners will be able to:</p> <p>LO 1. Describe the anatomy and physiology of the foot, skin, and nails.</p> <p>LO 2. Apply culturally appropriate approaches to foot care in Aotearoa, New Zealand.</p> <p>LO 3. Conduct a foot examination.</p>		
Topics (Indicative content)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatomy and Physiology of the foot and lower limb. • Foot, skin and nail pathologies. • Foot hygiene and care practices. • Foot examination techniques. • Cultural considerations in foot care. • Safety and Infection control. • Education and self-care support. 		
Delivery Methods / Learning Activities	<p>Assessment could include either a written assessment (for example, a workbook or assignments based on case studies) and/or an oral assessment using an assessment tool developed by the training provider.</p> <p>The learner/ākonga conducting a foot examination should be supervised and assessed by a registered podiatrist.</p>		
Standard	40448 – <i>Perform foot care procedures</i> (Level 4) (credits 15) (version 1)		

Component 2 Title: Safe foot care practice

Level	4	Credits	5
Mode	Blended (Theoretical) Face-to-face (Practical)	Duration	50 hours
Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this component, learners will be able to:</p> <p>LO 1. Demonstrate effective work practices.</p> <p>LO 2. Define the roles, responsibilities and limitations of a foot care assistant within the scope of practice.</p> <p>LO 3. Identify policies and procedures used to maintain a safe practice environment.</p> <p>LO 4. Identify organisational practices to ensure client confidentiality and appropriate record keeping.</p>		
Topics (Indicative content)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of supervision: direct, indirect, and delegated. • Scope of practice and its limitations relative to the podiatrist. • Code of Health and Disability Services Consumer Rights and its application • Occupational health and safety requirements. • Infection control policies. • Privacy, confidentiality, and consent. • Principles of aseptic technique. • Organisational practices for accurate documentation. 		
Delivery Methods / Learning Activities	<p>Assessment could include either a written assessment (for example, a workbook or assignments based on case studies) and/or an oral assessment using an assessment tool developed by the training provider.</p>		
Standard	<p>40489 – <i>Demonstrate safe foot care practice</i> (Level 4) (credits 5) (version 1)</p>		

Component 3 Title: Foot care assistant scope of practice

Level	3	Credits	5
Mode	Blended (Theoretical) Face-to-face (Practical)	Duration	50 hours
Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this component, learners will be able to:</p> <p>LO 1. Identify situations and conditions requiring immediate referral to a podiatrist, and document observations of foot health changes.</p> <p>LO 2. Communicate effectively within the podiatry environment.</p> <p>LO 3. Record and document client information and follow-up actions.</p>		
Topics (Indicative content)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situations and conditions requiring referral to a podiatrist. • Observation skills for identifying changes in foot health. • Effective communication techniques, including communication with diverse clients. • Recognising and respecting cultural preferences. • Documentation practices for health records. • Procedures for documenting actions, as well as monitoring and following up with patients. 		
Delivery Methods / Learning Activities	<p>Assessment could include either a written assessment (for example, a workbook or assignments based on case studies) and/or an oral assessment using an assessment tool developed by the training provider.</p>		
Standard	<p>40490 – <i>Operate within scope of practice of a foot care assistant</i> (Level 4) (credits 5) (version 1)</p>		