Important information regarding your nail surgery procedure

The best course of treatment for a problematic nail is a minor procedure called nail surgery. This procedure involves removal of all or part of the nail under a local anaesthetic which is administered at the base of your toe. This will ensure that your toe is numb and you will not experience any pain during the procedure.

The whole procedure normally takes about an hour. On the day of your minor surgery it is recommended that you:

- **Eat and drink as normal**
  - Take your regular medication unless instructed otherwise by your GP or Podiatrist.
  - We suggest that you bring with you an **open toe slipper/sandal** in order to accommodate the large dressing on your toe following the procedure.

- **Risks and benefits of nail surgery**
  - **Benefits**: Reduced pain, Permanent cure, Treatment in your local clinic/hospital, Minimal time off school/work, Remove cause of infection, Improved appearance of the nail toe.
  - **Risks**: Pain following the operation which varies from person to person, The use of the phenol may cause irritation to the treated area, As with any local anaesthetic there is a risk of an allergic reaction, Following the procedure the toe could become infected and need a course of antibiotics, Permanent damage to the remaining nail could occur, 3% chance the nail could regrow, Nerve damage or impaired blood flow to the toe, Deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

A follow up appointment will be arranged to review the toe and give you some advice and show you how to look after the toe at home, you should expect the toe to be healed in 8-12 weeks.

**Important notes to consider**
- It is important that you do not drive after the operation as this may invalidate your insurance. You can drive the day after.
- It is recommended that you do not consume alcohol 24 hours before and after the procedure as this will thin the blood.

**Partial nail avulsion**
Part of the nail can be removed from one or both sides of the affected toe, then we apply a chemical called phenol which creates a scar tissue at the base of the nail and in most cases it prevents a reoccurrence of the problem. This will leave you with a narrower piece of nail.

**Total nail avulsion**
The whole of the nail is removed and the same chemical is applied to prevent a new nail from growing. Following this procedure you will be left with skin/scar tissue over the nail bed, over time the skin may thicken to resemble a thin nail. With both procedures there is a 3% chance of regrowth.