



ALBERTA

SCOPE OF PRACTICE AS PER COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC PHYSICIANS OF ALBERTA

The College of Podiatric Physicians of Alberta regulates the profession under the Health Professions Act and the Podiatrists Profession Regulation. Licensure by the College requires a four-year DPM degree or equivalent, plus residency.

The legislated scope of practice the profession is defined as:

The branch of the healing arts that treats ailments, diseased conditions, deformities or injuries of the human foot and the leg muscles controlling the foot, and

(ii) includes the examination, diagnosis and treatment of those ailments, conditions, deformities or injuries, but

(iii) does not include the treatment of systemic diseases of bones, muscles or ligaments, or the use of X-ray equipment for purposes other than diagnostic, or the use of anesthetics other than local.

The restricted acts and authorities available to podiatric surgeons are detailed as follows:

5.2.1 Perform a general assessment including collection of patient information such as complaints, past medical history including drug history, allergies and sensitivities, previous interventions, overall health, physical and occupational demands, etc.

5.2.2 Perform appropriate assessment of lower extremity including dermatological, vascular, neurological, musculoskeletal, biomechanical, footwear and orthoses

5.2.3 Perform relevant diagnostic testing such as dermal thermography and gait analysis

5.2.4 Access and review additional reports/findings from other healthcare providers relevant to the patient's concerns

5.2.5 Order or take, interpret and report the results of diagnostic imaging examinations based on radiography, nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging and/or ultrasound imaging

5.2.6 Formulate a diagnosis of a patient's condition based on information gathered in general assessment, diagnostic testing and physical examination. Engage in discussion with the patient

and/or their family regarding the diagnosis, treatment options and benefits/risks of each alternative

5.2.8 Develop an appropriate treatment plan for the patient according to best standards and evidence-based practices

5.2.9 Recognize other possible conditions/abnormalities that may require referral to another healthcare provider

Page | 2

5.2.10 Manage patient condition using the appropriate treatment and according to the best standards and evidence-based practices, including but not limited to:

5.2.10.1 Prescribing medications according to regulation

5.2.10.2 Administer injectables according to regulation

5.2.10.3 Prescribe and/or modify orthoses

5.2.10.4 Prescribe and/or modify footwear

5.2.10.5 Prescribe support stocking

5.2.11 Provide patient treatment by performing procedures based on best practices and evidence-based practices, including but not limited to:

5.2.11.1 Debridement

5.2.11.2 Joint mobilization and manipulation

5.2.11.3 Non-surgical interventions such as padding, taping, joint immobilization

5.2.11.4 Therapeutic modalities such as ultrasound, wax bath, TENS, hydrotherapy

5.2.11.5 Casting such as orthotics, serial, total contact, surgical and traumatic

5.2.11.6 Surgery and suturing

5.2.11.7 Specimens for analysis

5.2.12 Manage the pedal manifestations using the most appropriate treatment according to the best standards and evidence-based practices, including but not limited to:

5.2.12.1 Biomechanical conditions

5.2.12.2 Nail disorders

5.2.12.3 Dermatological problems

5.2.12.4 Infections, e.g. bacterial, viral, bacteremia

5.2.12.5 Musculoskeletal conditions and problems

5.2.12.6 Deformities, e.g. forefoot, mid foot, rear foot, ankle

5.2.12.7 Peripheral vascular disorders

5.2.12.8 Central nervous system disorders

5.2.13 Provide patients with education, documentation, prescriptions and/or supplies required to implement treatment plan

5.2.14 Manage any complications arising from the

A Podiatric Physician is authorized to:

5.4.1 Cut a body tissue, to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue, or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue

5.4.2 Set or reset a fracture of a bone

5.4.3 Reduce a dislocation of a joint

5.4.4 Prescribe a Schedule 1 drug within the meaning of the Pharmacy and Drug Act

5.4.5 Dispense, compound, provide for selling or sell, incidentally to the practice of Podiatry, a Schedule 1 drug or Schedule 2 drug within the meaning of the Pharmacy and Drug Act

5.4.6 Administer a vaccine

5.4.7 Prescribe or administer nitrous oxide gas for the purposes of anesthesia or sedation

5.4.8 Order any form of ionizing radiation in medical radiography and nuclear medicine

5.4.9 Apply any form of ionizing radiation in medical radiography

5.4.10 Order any form of non-ionizing radiation in magnetic resonance imaging or ultrasound imaging

5.4.11 Apply any form of non-ionizing radiation in ultrasound imaging (except in respect of a fetus)

In the Ontario context, podiatric surgeons in Alberta may order laboratory tests, x-rays, MRIs, diagnostic sonography, may administer substances by injection or by inhalation, may perform bone surgery and may prescribe controlled substances.