



Florida Podiatry Political Committee Fact Sheet

Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs)

Florida’s Podiatric Physicians, licensed under the Title XXXII, Chapter 461 of the Florida Statutes, are qualified by their education, training, and experience to diagnose and treat by medical, surgical, palliative, and mechanical means all ailments of the human foot and leg.

Podiatric medicine is the medical sub-specialty that provides the community standard of care for the lower extremity, focusing on that specific part of the human anatomy (Foot and Leg), similar to other sub-specialties, such as Ophthalmology, Cardiology, and Otolaryngology.

Within the scope of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Podiatric Physicians can practice in multiple areas, including surgery, sports medicine, biomechanics, geriatrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, and primary care.

Florida Podiatric Physicians have the education, training, experience, and licensure to:

- Perform comprehensive medical history and physical examinations.
- Prescribe drugs and order and perform physical therapy.
- Perform surgeries ranging from basic to complex reconstructive surgery.
- Repair fractures and treat sports-related injuries.
- Prescribe and fit corrective orthotics, durable medical goods, and diabetic shoes.
- Perform and interpret X-Rays and other imaging studies.

Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) receive education and training comparable to MDs and DOs:

- Four years of undergraduate study focusing on life sciences.
- Four years of graduate study in one of the eleven Colleges of Podiatric Medicine.
- At least three years of postgraduate hospital-based residency training.

Comparison of Physician/Surgeon Education, Training and Practice

The education, training, and experience Podiatric Physicians receive in the care and treatment of the lower extremity are more focused and specialized than that of other broadly trained medical specialists.

Degree	4 Year Graduate Medical Education	Minimum 3 Year Residency	Independently Diagnose and Treat (Office)	Independently Diagnose and Treat (Hospital)	Surgical Privileges (Hospital)	Admitting (H & P) Privileges	Full RX License
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Medical Doctor (MD)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X