28 Pa. Code §107.2  Medical Staff Membership

Approved Expedited Exception

The Department permits a hospital to admit podiatrists to the medical staff of the hospital.

Clinical evidence/support for this exception

Podiatrists provide medical and surgical care for people suffering foot, ankle, and lower leg problems. They diagnose illnesses, treat injuries, and perform surgery. For example, podiatrists treat calluses, ingrown toenails, heel spurs, and arch problems. They also treat foot and leg problems associated with diabetes and other diseases; they may set fractures ¹.

Podiatrists have been granted hospital privileges since 1970’s in some hospitals throughout the country². By 1988, 49.1% of hospital executives thought podiatrists could make a substantial contribution to hospital or operating room venues.³ According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, today 4% of podiatrist work in general medical and surgical hospitals or in private practice. In a hospital practice they take call and work some weekends, just as other hospital license specialists⁴. In May 2012, CMS issued a final rule that Doctors of Podiatry (DPMs), when permitted by state law, are not only to be on staff, but also to assume leadership of a medical staff. CMS states that “DPMs possess the education, training and experience that make them qualified to hold such leadership positions.”⁵ There is evidence that podiatrists have served well on medical staffs in other states.⁶

The granting of an expedited exception to allow podiatrists to be on the medical staff of hospitals is timely and warranted, and is supported by the ruling of CMS which was based on expert testimony.

Minimum requirements for this exception

Provision in hospital medical staff bylaws for medical staff membership for podiatrists.

Medical staff bylaws.

Footnotes


Approved 8/15/12
Amended 3/13/15