

28 Pa. Code §107.2 (b) Medical Staff Membership

Structured 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 country.² 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 a Structured 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.

Documentation to be provided to the Dept by the facility

Medical staff bylaws.

Footnotes

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Podiatrists, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/podiatrists.htm> (visited August 03, 2012)
2. Rutenberg, H. (1977) Should Podiatrist be members of the hospital medial staff? Hospitals August 16th 1977 pg 85-86,90,92,94
3. Koska, M.T. 1988 "More hospitals open doors to podiatrist" Hospitals May 5 62(9) :62



4. Bureau of Labor Statistics, op.cit.
5. Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Final Rule, 42 CFR Parts 482 and 485 Fed.Reg. Vol. 77, No. 95 May 16, 2012 pages 29044-29048
6. Friedman E, Staff Privileges for non-physician. Part 1: How clinical psychologist and podiatrists are fitting in. The hospital staff 1978 Feb Vol 7 (2) pp16-21