

New York State Podiatric Medical Association Accomplishments

- Creation of the Hospital Antidiscrimination Law, preventing hospitals from being able to refuse DPM staff privileges based on degree. This moved to include podiatrists in hospital healthcare delivery, opening up opportunities for DPMs to get on more hospital staffs and increased residency opportunities across the state.
- Together with the ADA, successfully convinced legislators and Medicaid's medical director not to cut podiatry from the 2005 Medicaid budget, thereby preserving our ability to treat Medicaid patients in the article 28 clinics. This also created the need to have an independent study to show the efficacy of podiatry in diabetic limb salvage, leading to the 2005 NYSPMA resolution to APMA, resulting in our Thomson-Reuters study.
- Passed the Practice Act, lifting the limitations of DPMs only being able to treat minor deficiencies and deformities of the foot. Before this Act, there were no provisions for medical history and physicals; no amputations; and performing open reduction internal fixation, osteotomies of metatarsals, or anything more proximal was out of bounds.
- Worked with CMS to correct the ICD-10 Routine foot care policy to add the appropriate diagnosis codes
- Advocacy leading to the inclusion of histories and physicals into the podiatric scope of practice; and clarification that all surgery and trauma of the foot are within scope.
- Expanded the scope of practice to provide qualified NY podiatrists the ability to apply for standard and advanced ankle surgery privileges, and expanded wound care privileges.
- Through its advocacy efforts for podiatry inclusion in Managed Medicaid programs, ensured that private practice podiatrists can continue to see patients from the following Managed Medicaid programs- BCBS Amerigroup, Fidelis, HealthFirst, UHC Community Plan, Health Now, MetroPlus, WellCare, and Affinity.
- Successful advocacy of NYSPMA's Basic Benefits & Workforce Flexibility Workgroups lead to the re-establishment of podiatry as a basic, essential benefit in Medicaid for the treatment of diabetics, and increased the scope to allow greater access of care for NYS Medicaid beneficiaries. This DOH policy win reduces complications and costs.
- Through the Podiatry Protection Program, a membership benefit, NYSPMA legal counsel successfully fought to prevent terminations of podiatrists in several insurance panels, including, BCBS, Emblem, UHC and HealthFirst.
- Sponsored several successful resolutions directing APMA to develop toolkits to assist in transitioning providers into value based payment models and ensuring podiatric success in the new healthcare delivery methods.
- Working with NY State Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), played a role in having fee schedule changes for podiatrists retroactive to 02/17/2014 and updated workman compensation to include ankle procedures.

New York State Podiatric Medical Association Past and On-going Advocacy Efforts

- Supports and maintains relationships with key state legislators in both houses to continually educate them on our priorities.
- Monitors legislation in Albany and supports or opposes legislation vital to our practices.
- Has taken the lead in a Title VIII provider coalition advocating for a bill to allow MD/DO/DPM business partnerships to ensure podiatry can participate in the team approach to healthcare delivery.
- Met with top staff at DOH, including the NY Department of Health commissioner. Discussions included population health, value based payment, and the essential role podiatry plays in the management of diabetic patients and at risk patients.

- Made a policy level presentation to the Health Plan Association in New York City, asking for Podiatry to be included in essential benefits in the New York State Health Exchange products, and expansion of Podiatric networks to reduce access to care issues.
- Advocated to ensure orthotic coverage for the following plans- 1199, HealthFirst, BCBS Amerigroup, UHC Community Plan; BCBS 32BJ.
- Advocates to increase at-risk foot care coverage, including the fight to have and maintain fair at-risk foot care policies.
- Advocates for increased podiatry utilization within the NY healthcare system, meeting with insurance policymakers throughout the state to increase podiatry utilization, education of policymakers and relationship building, resulting in plans to encourage visits to podiatrists for diabetic patients, and better relationships to resolve ongoing policy issues. Presentations were made to BCBS, Oxford, UHC, Cigna, Health Now, Independent Health, Hip, GHI, Amerigroup, Fidelis, Wellcare, Affinity, and Health First.
- Examines new healthcare delivery models and explores ways for members to succeed in these models, including Value Based Payment, Accountable Care Organizations, and bundled payments.
- Supports Title 19 legislation, which would include DPM's as physicians in Medicaid; supported the SGR fix; and introduced a resolution to develop a HEDIS measurement for podiatry that will make Podiatry more valuable to healthcare delivery.