

**TITLE 185: COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS
LICENSING BOARD**

**CHAPTER 185-10
COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS
LICENSING BOARD REGULATIONS**

Part 4500

Podiatrist

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Part 4500 - Podiatrist

§ 185-10-4501 Definitions

- (a) **“ABPS”** means the American Board of Podiatric Surgery which is recognized by the Joint Committee on the Recognition of Specialty Boards of the Council on Podiatric Medical Education under the authority of the American Podiatric Medical Association as the specialty board to conduct a certification process in podiatric surgery.
- (b) **“APMA”** means the American Podiatric Medical Association headquartered in Bethesda, MD, and is the leading resource for foot and ankle health information. Currently, the organization represents a vast majority of the estimated 15,000 podiatrists in the country.
- (c) **“APMLE”** means the American Examinations (APLME Parts I, II, National Board of Podiatric Medical Podiatric Medical Licensing and III) provided by the Examiners.
- (d) **“CPME”** means The Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association and is an autonomous accrediting agency for podiatric medical education. The council has final authority for the accreditation of colleges of podiatric medicine, the approval of fellowships and residency programs, and sponsors of continuing education, as well as the recognition of specialty certifying boards for podiatric medical practice.
- (e) **“FPMB”** means the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards. The FPMB provides states with score results on the national licensing PM Lexis/Part III exam and is a clearinghouse for providing disciplinary action data to state boards and designated entities.
- (f) **“Human foot”** means the ankle and soft tissue which insert into the foot as well as the foot.
- (g) **“NBPME”** means the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, a nonprofit corporation established in 1956. The mission of the corporation is to develop and administer examinations of such high quality that the various legal agencies governing the practice of podiatric medicine may choose to license those who have successfully completed such examinations for practice in their jurisdictions without further examination.
- (h) **“Podiatric medicine”** or **“podiatry”** is the practice of medicine and surgery on the lower extremity including the diagnosis and treatment of conditions affecting the human foot, ankle, and leg by all appropriate systems and means and adjunctive procedures thereto including the prescribing and administering of drugs and medicines.
- (i) **“Podiatrist”** is a doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM), also known as a podiatric physician or surgeon. Podiatrists diagnose and treat conditions of the foot, ankle, and tendons directly related to and governing the function of the foot and ankle. Podiatrists can specialize in many fields, including surgery, sports medicine, wound care, pediatrics, and diabetic care. A podiatric physician may assist a licensed physician and surgeon holding a medical doctor or osteopathic medical doctor degree in non-podiatric procedures. Podiatric physicians and surgeons may issue prescriptions valid at any pharmacy for any drug, including narcotics, necessary in the practice of podiatry. Podiatrists shall not:

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- (1) Amputate the foot;
- (2) Administer spinal anesthetic or any anesthetic that renders the patient unconscious; or
- (3) Treat systemic conditions.

§ 185-10-4505 Exemptions from License Requirements

These regulations shall apply to all licensed podiatrists in the CNMI except:

- (a) A regularly matriculated student undertaking a course of professional instruction in a school of podiatric medicine from participating in medical training whenever and wherever prescribed as part of his or her course of study. Such training beyond the scope of podiatric medicine shall be under the supervision of a physician and surgeon holding the degree of medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine; or
- (b) The practice of podiatry in the CNMI by any commissioned podiatric officer serving in the Armed Forces of the United States or Public Health Service, or any medical or podiatric officer on duty with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, while any such podiatric officer is engaged in the performance of the actual duties prescribed by the laws and regulations of the United States.

§ 185-10-4510 [Reserved]

§ 185-10-4515 Requirements for Licensure

- (a) An applicant to practice as a podiatrist must be at least twenty-one years of age, is a U.S. citizen or a foreign national lawfully entitled to remain and work in the Commonwealth, and meets the following requirements:
 - (1) Applicant is a graduate of a school or college of podiatric medicine accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association or a school or college approved by the Board;
 - (2) Applicant have successfully passed the Part I, II, and III of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (now known as the APMLE) examinations or a written examination that is recognized by the board to be the equivalent in content to the exams administered by the NBPME. The Part III examination may be waived if the applicant is:
 - (i) certified by the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine or the American Board of Podiatric Surgery; or
 - (ii) licensed as a podiatrist in another U.S. state or territory; and
 - (3) The applicant has satisfactorily completed one year of post-graduate training approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association. Clinical performance shall be deemed satisfactory to fulfill the purposes of this requirement. This post-graduate training shall be considered to include, but not be

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limited to, rotating podiatric residency, podiatric orthopedic residency, and podiatric surgical residency.

- (b) Any person who uses in any sign or in any advertisement or otherwise, the word or words “doctor of podiatric medicine,” “DPM,” “podiatric physician and surgeon,” “podiatrist,” “foot specialist,” or any other term or terms or any letters indicating or implying that he or she is a doctor of podiatric medicine, or that he or she practices podiatric medicine, or holds himself or herself out as practicing podiatric medicine, without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended license to practice podiatric medicine is guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 185-10-4520 Licensure by Endorsement

- (a) The Board may grant a license to a person to practice podiatry without examination if:
- (1) The person holds a valid, active license to practice as a podiatrist in another jurisdiction;
 - (2) The person substantially complies with the requirements for licensure in section 185-10-4515; and
 - (3) The requirements in the jurisdiction of licensure are at least as stringent as those under these regulations.
- (b) The Board may deny a license by endorsement to a person to practice podiatry, if the person has been the subject of an adverse action in which his/her license was suspended, revoked, placed on probation, conditioned, or renewal denied.

§ 185-10-4525 Applications

An application for a license to practice as a podiatrist shall be made on a form to be provided by the Board accompanied with the following information and documentations as are necessary to establish that the applicant possesses the qualifications as required in these regulations:

- (a) The applicant’s full name and all aliases or other names ever used, current address, date and place of birth, and Social Security number;
- (b) Applicant’s 2x2 photograph taken within six months;
- (c) Applicant must pay the appropriate fees, including the application fee which shall not be refunded;
- (d) Applicant to provide originals of all documents and credentials, or notarized or certified copies acceptable to the Board of such documents and credentials, including but not limited to:
 - (1) Diploma or certificate showing successful completion of an approved school or program in podiatry;
 - (2) Documents showing satisfactory proof that applicant has taken and passed the required examinations; or

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- (3) Documents showing proof that applicant is licensed to practice as a podiatrist in another jurisdiction and complies with the requirements for licensure in section 185-10-4515; and
- (e) Applicant to provide a list of all jurisdictions, U.S. or foreign, in which the applicant is licensed or has applied for a license to practice podiatry;
- (f) Applicant to provide a detailed educational history, including places, institutions, dates and program descriptions of all his or her education beginning with secondary schooling and including all college and/or training programs;
- (g) Applicant to provide a list of all jurisdictions, U.S. or foreign, in which the applicant has been denied licensure or voluntarily surrendered a license to practice as a podiatrist;
- (h) Applicant to provide a list of all jurisdictions, U.S. or foreign, of all sanctions, judgments, awards, or settlements or convictions against the applicant that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the Act or these regulations; and
- (i) An NPDB or FPMB's data bank report within sixty days from the signature date of the application. Additionally, when applicable, an applicant must provide a certificate or Letter of Good Standing from the appropriate government health agency having jurisdiction over a foreign- licensed podiatrist, or from any other entity, satisfactory to the Board, having information pertinent to the applicant's professional standing.

§ 185-10-4530 Renewal

- (a) All licensed, except temporary or limited licenses issued by the Board, expire every two years following issuance or renewal and become invalid after that date.
- (b) Each licensee shall be responsible for submitting a completed renewal application at least sixty days before the expiration date. The Board shall send, by mail or email, a notice to every person licensed hereunder giving the date of expiration, the fee, and any additional requirement for the renewal thereof.
- (c) All licensees must submit satisfactory evidence of completion of CE requirements, as required under § 185-10-4535.
- (d) A late fee of \$25.00 will be charged every 1st of the month after the expiration date.
- (e) Licenses which have expired for failure to renew on or before the date required may be reinstated within one year of the expiration date upon payment of the renewal and late fees for each calendar month until the renewal fee is paid. Each licensee whose license has expired and lapsed for more than one year by failure to renew must file a new application, meet current requirements for licensure, and receive Board approval.
- (f) A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended, or placed on probation by the licensing authority of another U.S. or foreign jurisdiction, or who has voluntarily or involuntarily surrendered his or her license in consideration of the dismissal or discontinuance of pending or threatened administrative or criminal charges, following the expiration date of his or her CNMI

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license, may be deemed ineligible for renewal of his or her license to practice as a podiatrist in the CNMI. This will not, however, prevent the Board from considering a new application.

§ 185-10-4535 Continuing Education (CE)

- (a) All podiatrists licensed to practice in the CNMI are required to complete at least fifty CE hours relevant to the practice of podiatry as a prerequisite to the renewal of their biennial license.
- (b) One CE unit or credit equals to one contact hour.
- (c) Approved continuing education activities for podiatry includes but is not limited to the following:
 - (1) Programs approved by the American Podiatric Medical Association and their affiliated organizations, programs approved for Category 1 credit of the American Medical Association, or their affiliated organizations, and programs approved by the American Osteopathic Association or their affiliated organizations; or
 - (2) Programs offered by approved colleges or schools of podiatric medicine, medicine and osteopathic medicine or other programs approved by the Board. Completion of a podiatric residency program or clinical fellowship in a hospital shall be credited for 50 hours of approved continuing education.
- (d) If a licensee fails to meet the CE requirements for renewal of license because of illness, military service, medical or religious activity, residence in a foreign country, or other extenuating circumstances, the Board upon appropriate written request from the applicant may grant an extension of time to complete same, on an individual basis.
- (e) It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to obtain documentation, satisfactory to the Board, from the organization or institution of his or her participation in the continuing education, and the number of course/credit hours.
- (f) Licensure renewal shall be denied to any licensee who fails to provide satisfactory evidence of completion of CE requirements, or who falsely certifies attendance at and/or completion of the CE as required herein.

§ 185-10-4540 Code of Ethics

The Board recognizes the APMA's Code of Ethics and all podiatrists have the responsibility of aspiring to the highest possible standards of conduct and ethical behavior, assuring that the best care is provided for the individuals and groups whom they serve.

§ 185-10-4545 Disciplinary Action

The Board shall have the power to impose administrative penal ties and/or reprimands; revoke or suspend; or refuse to issue, restore, or renew the license of any person who is found guilty of one or more of the violations pursuant to P.L. 15-105 § 2224 and §§ 185-10-3800* of the regulations.

* So in original. See Commission Comment.