



# Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

## GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDERS OF FOOTCARE SERVICES WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED PODIATRISTS

### Footcare Services you could perform:

- cut normal toe nails
- pedicures
- non-invasive treatment
- footcare that people would normally perform for themselves

### The Podiatrists Board does not recommend the following:

- treatment of corns or callouses
- treatment of ingrown toenails
- treatment of infected areas or areas that pose a risk of infection
- treatment of anything pathological or abnormal
- diagnosis of illness
- use of scalpels and sharp instruments

**The Board recommends that footcare providers** who are not registered under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA), **do not perform footcare on people with diabetes, poor circulation or with any other medical condition that may cause foot problems.**

The Board recommends that the person providing the service, seek a healthcare professional's advice where there may be a degree of uncertainty of the level of care required, or when unsure of the health status of the client.

**Section 7 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 sets out the legal requirements for those practising as a health practitioner in New Zealand.**

**7 Unqualified person must not claim to be health practitioner**

- (1) A person may only use names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions stating or implying that the person is a health practitioner of a particular kind if the person is registered, and is qualified to be registered, as a health practitioner of that kind.
- (2) No person may claim to be practising a profession as a health practitioner of a particular kind or state or do anything that is calculated to suggest that the person practises or is willing to practise a profession as a health practitioner of that kind unless the person--
  - (a) is a health practitioner of that kind; and
  - (b) holds a current practising certificate as a health practitioner of that kind.
- (3) No person may make an express or implied statement about another person that the other person is prohibited by subsection (1) or subsection (2) from making about himself or herself.
- (4) Subsection (2) does not prohibit a person from stating his or her willingness to practise a profession for the purposes of seeking employment if the person is, or would on obtaining that employment be, qualified to be registered as a health practitioner of that profession and to hold a current practising certificate as a health practitioner of that profession.
- (5) Every person commits an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 who contravenes this section.

**PODIATRISTS BOARD'S RECOGNISED  
SCOPES OF PRACTICE**

**1. PODIATRIST**

A registered primary health care practitioner (including those previously registered as a chiropodist) who utilises medical, physical, palliative and surgical means other than those prescribed in the Podiatric Surgeon Scope of Practice, to provide diagnostic, preventative and rehabilitative treatment of conditions affecting the feet and lower limbs.

**Qualification**

A Bachelor of Health Science in Podiatry from an accredited New Zealand University or a National Diploma in Podiatry or Chiropody from the Central Institute of Technology or equivalent overseas qualification as determined by the Podiatrists Board.

**2. PODIATRIC SURGEON**

A registered primary health care practitioner who holds the scope of practice of podiatrist and is further qualified to perform foot surgery by way of sharp toe nail wedge resection; surgical correction of lesser digital deformities affecting the phalanges, metatarsals and associated structures; surgical corrections of deformities affecting the first toe, first metatarsal and associated structures; surgical correction of osseous deformities of the metatarsus, mid-tarsus, rearfoot and associated structures; surgical correction and removal of

pathological subcutaneous structures such as tendinous and nervous tissues and other connective soft tissue masses of the foot.  
*(The Podiatrists Board does not approve of any Podiatric Surgeon performing any procedure beyond their competence, training and qualifications.)*

**Qualification**

A Post Graduate qualification in Podiatric Surgery as determined by the Podiatrists Board or equivalent overseas qualification.

**3. PODIATRIC RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGER**

A registered primary health care practitioner who holds the scope of practice of podiatrist, who is qualified to use radiological equipment, and is licensed by the Ministry of Health Office of Radiation Safety, to obtain plain radiographic images and /or fluoroscopic images of the foot, ankle and lower leg.

**Qualification**

As part of the New Zealand undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science in Podiatry or satisfactory completion of an accredited post graduate training course in podiatric radiography.

**4. VISITING PODIATRIST EDUCATOR/ PRESENTER**

A visiting registered podiatrist who qualifies for the scope of practice of Podiatrist, and when appropriate for their speciality area of education, also qualifies for an additional scope of practice of Podiatric Surgeon and / or Podiatric Radiographic Imager as determined by the Podiatrists Board, who is presenting short-term educational / instructional programmes requiring demonstrations or practices, of a clinical or practical nature.

**Qualification**

Qualifications as to the individual educator speciality areas as recognised by the Podiatrists Board.

- **Approved:** 2015
- **Reviewed:** Aug 2017  
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- **Review due:** Aug 2021