

Staying current

Education, residency and credentialing standards change periodically.

To navigate the sometimes complex and even inconsistent world of privileging, it is important to understand that hospital bylaws, department policies, and the privileging process is designed to ensure the safety of patients and continued access to competent care. The *Guide to Credentialing and Privileging Doctors of Podiatric Medicine*, distributed by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM), provides a comprehensive summary of **podiatry's educational and residency requirements over the past decade** and the importance of understanding these as you seek privileges with a hospital. You will note that privileging considers and reviews your training, residencies, post-grad certification, fellowship, preceptorship concurrent with your overall experience and board certification. This guide will help you understand the process more thoroughly, so you are prepared. It also serves as a guide for hospitals and credentialers who must continually work to stay current with changes in specialty fields.

What does the Guide contain?

- Best practices and compliance requirements for CMS and The Joint Commission.
- APMA (American Podiatric Medical Association) Guidelines for Privileging.
- 16 Best Practice Elements for Credentialing Excellence.
- Privileging recommendations and sample forms for Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)

While not all organizations share the same privileging criteria and, in addition to federal and state regulations, may look for different elements depending on what their individual medical staff feels is appropriate, the updated and clear outline of information contained in the Guide provides both credentialing bodies, faced with numerous ongoing changes and you, the podiatrist, with a succinct yet comprehensive reference for credentialing and privileging DPMs.

High-level Credentialing and Privileging Guidelines for Podiatrists Applicable to Most Hospitals, Surgery Centers, and Ancillary Facilities:

Membership qualifications may be as follows:

- *Successfully completed a residency program approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA),*
- *Be board certified or become board certified in the primary specialty within five years of completing formal training by a board recognized by the CPME.*

Privileging qualifications may be as follows:

- *Successfully completed a residency program approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA)*
- *Be board certified or become board certified in the primary specialty within five years of completing formal training by a board recognized by the CPME.*
- *Demonstrated current competence and evidence of at least [n] podiatric procedures that reflect the scope of privileges requested during the past 12 months (usually it's a 24 month recertification cycle) or successful completion of a CPME-accredited podiatric residency within the past 12 months.*

NOTE: For the **podiatrist**, both the American Board of Podiatric Medicine or the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery are recognized by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education's (CPME) Joint Committee on the Recognition of Specialty Boards (JCRSB) and indicate the demonstration of a cognitive knowledge in a podiatrist's primary specialty.