

Memorandum

To: All Arkansas licensed podiatrists
From: The Arkansas Board Of Podiatric Medicine
RE: History and physical examinations

The Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine would like to clarify the standards and qualifications expected of podiatrists in the state who perform history and physical examinations. As you may be aware, in 2002, The Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Hospitals Organization issued a clarification. JCAHO stated that qualified, credentialed, and privileged doctors of podiatric medicine could independently perform all or part of the medical history and physical examination, subject applicable to state law, and the determination by the medial staff that high risk patients require confirmation or endorsement of the history and physical by a qualified physician.

In 2006, The Department of Health and Human Services also confirmed the ruling for Medicare and Medicaid services.

The Board would like to present our position, which requires that each individual practitioner must demonstrate expertise in performing history and physical examinations based on training, education, experience, and competency. For those podiatrists who have not had this appropriate training in their College of Podiatric Medicine or their residency program, but wish to perform history and physical examinations, the Board may require documentation which verifies the competency that is required when performing these examinations. One may want to consider completing an approved course which provides this training.

If there are additional concerns, please contact The Arkansas Board Of Podiatric Medicine.