

Podiatrist Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Review patients' medical history to evaluate the condition of the feet, ankle or lower leg
- Carry out diagnosis on the feet through X-ray examination and medical laboratory tests
- Prescribe and fit prosthetic appliances such as shoe inserts to improve patients' mobility
- Specialize in podogeriatrics to treat feet and lower leg problems in elderly people
- Perform foot and ankle surgeries to remove bone spurs and address leg deformity
- Prescribe medication for feet conditions such as plantar fasciitis, heel stress, and athlete's foot
- Refer patients to other specialists to treat conditions such as diabetes or arthritis
- Apply podiatric techniques such as whirlpool/paraffin baths, shortwave, and low voltage electrical treatment for patients
- Organize forums and programs to educate the public on the importance of foot care
- Direct and supervise the activities of podiatrist assistant and trainee podiatrists
- Advise patients on ways to increase speed of recovery and prevent future leg problems
- Monitor the recovery progress of patients to determine the need for change in treatment
- Operate instruments such as X-ray, lasers, grinders, and visual gait-analysis equipment in the treatment of patients
- Work in the field of sports medicine to address leg and feet injuries
- Attend educational conferences and seminars to update job knowledge.

Podiatrist Requirements – Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- Education and Training: To become a podiatrist, you require a Bachelor's degree in a relevant science discipline. This allows for entry into a 4-year doctoral degree in podiatric medicine. Podiatrists are required to go for a 3-year residency program on completion of a medical degree. They are also required to pass state board examination in order to obtain licensure for practice
- Interpersonal skill: Podiatrists are able to work with different groups of patients including children and the elderly
- Critical thinking skill: They are able to properly diagnose and develop treatment plan for patients with feet problems
- Empathy: They are compassionate towards patients undergoing feet treatment and are able to reassure them.