



## SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR A PODIATRIC MEDICAL LICENSE**

To be eligible for a license to practice podiatric medicine in California, you must graduate from an approved college or school of podiatric medicine. Currently, eight colleges are approved:

- (1) California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt College, Oakland, California;
- (2) Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Miami Shores, Florida;
- (3) Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, North Chicago, Illinois;
- (4) Des Moines University of Osteopathic Medicine & Health Sciences, College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, Iowa;
- (5) New York College of Podiatric Medicine, New York, New York;
- (6) Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio;
- (7) Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- (8) Arizona Podiatric Medicine Program at Midwestern University, Glendale, Arizona

In addition, you must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Pass all sections of parts I, II, and III of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) examination **within the last ten years**.
- (2) Satisfactorily complete at least **two** years of postgraduate podiatric medical and surgical training approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
- (3) Submit fingerprint cards and obtain criminal record clearance from the state Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Applicants in proximity to California may opt to obtain clearances utilizing the Live Scan method.)
- (4) Provide license verification from all states or countries in which a medical license has been held.
- (5) Request a disciplinary databank report from the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) be sent directly to the Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM).

## **LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALING**

If you are licensed as a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) in any other state in addition to the educational requirements you must meet the following:

- (1) Pass Part III of the NBPME examination **within the last ten years.**
- (2) Satisfactorily complete at least **one** year of postgraduate training approved by the CPME.
- (3) Submit fingerprint cards and obtain criminal record clearance from the state Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Applicants in proximity to California may opt to obtain clearances utilizing the Live Scan method.)
- (4) Provide verification of a license in good standing from all states or countries in which a medical license has been held.
- (5) Request a disciplinary databank report from the FPMB be sent to the directly to the BPM.

## **RESIDENT'S LICENSE FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING**

You must obtain a Resident's License for participation in any postgraduate training program in California. Only programs conducted entirely on federal reservations, such as Veterans' Administration facilities, are exempt from this requirement.

A Resident's License is issued by the BPM for participation in a specific training program for a specific one-year period. The license may be renewed for continued participation in training programs for up to four years. Before the license can be renewed for a fourth year, however, you must obtain a permanent license by meeting all requirements, including passage of the NBPME Part III examination.

Resident's License requirements include graduation from an approved college of podiatric medicine and passage of Parts I and II of the NBPME examination. You must also obtain state and federal fingerprint clearances prior to the issuance of the Resident's License.

With a Resident's License, you may participate in rotations beyond the scope of podiatric medicine under appropriate supervision by a licensed physician (MD or DO). A Resident's License allows participation in a specific training program only -- any other activity constitutes criminal unlicensed practice and is vigorously prosecuted.

## **NBPME PART III EXAMINATION (PMLLEXIS)**

BPM's oral clinical licensure examination has been replaced with the NBPME Part III examination (formerly known as PMLexis). Thomson Prometric offers this examination in June and December each year. **Part III registration forms, including exam fees, must be received by Thomson Prometric by their registration deadline.** You may access exam information through NPMBE's website at [www.nbpme.info](http://www.nbpme.info).

## **PERMANENT LICENSE**

Following completion of all licensure requirements, you will be issued an initial permanent license for a period of 12 to 24 months, expiring after the second occurrence of your birthdate. After this initial period, the license can be renewed every two years by submitting a renewal fee and certifying completion of continuing competence requirements. A renewal form will be sent to your address of record approximately two months prior to your license expiration date. At the time of your first renewal, completion of your residency program satisfies continuing medical education (CME) renewal requirements if the residency program was completed within the two years prior to your renewal date.

## **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

DPMs are licensed under Section 2472 of the State Medical Practice Act. They diagnose and treat medical conditions of the foot, ankle and related structures (including the tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg). Any procedure and modality is within the DPM scope if utilized to diagnose and treat foot, ankle or other podiatric conditions.

In addition to performing foot and ankle surgeries, DPMs are also licensed to assist medical and osteopathic doctors (MDs, DOs) in any surgery--podiatric or non-podiatric.

DPMs, many of whom develop expertise in the care and preservation of the diabetic foot, may perform partial amputations of the foot as far as proximal with the Chopart's joint, to prevent greater loss of limb, ambulation, or life. They order and administer anesthesia and sedatives, as indicated. *Administration* of general anesthesia, however, may only be performed by an anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Section 2472 also specifies the various peer-reviewed facilities in which ankle surgery may be performed. It may be viewed in its entirety from BPM's website under Laws & Regulations. BPM interprets surgical treatment of the ankle to include those parts of the tibia, fibula, their malleoli and related structures as indicated by the procedures.

## **ANKLE SURGERY**

Passage of BPM's oral clinical examination after January 1, 1984, or passage of NBPME's Part III exam authorizes you to perform ankle surgery. This will be indicated by "License or Registration Class: ANK", and authorizes the full DPM medical scope.

## **CONTINUING COMPETENCE**

You must certify completion of continuing competence requirements at the time of each permanent license renewal. Requirements are:

- (1) Completion of at least 50 hours of approved continuing medical education during the two-year period prior to renewal. Twelve hours must be subjects related to the lower extremity muscular skeletal system. Completion of an approved residency program is credited for 50 CME units for the first license renewal.
- (2) Meeting one of the following:
  - (a) passage of an exam administered by the board (past 10 years).
  - (b) passage of an exam administered by an approved specialty board (past 10 years).
  - (c) current diplomate, eligible, or qualified status granted by an approved specialty board (past 10 years).
  - (d) recertification by an approved specialty board (past 10 years).
  - (e) completion of an approved residency/fellowship (past 10 years).
  - (f) granting/renewal of privileges by a health care facility approved by a federal or state agency (past 5 years).
  - (g) completion of an extended course of study approved by the board (past 5 years).
  - (h) Passage of Part III exam administered by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (past 10 years).

You must maintain records of all CME courses attended for a minimum of four years. The board conducts a yearly random audit to ensure compliance.

## **ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

In addition to licensure by the BPM, you must obtain certification from other state and federal agencies.

### **CERTIFIED RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIST**

In California, a DPM may not use or supervise the use of x-rays on humans without certification from the state Department of Health Services as an x-ray supervisor and operator. Employment of a certified radiological technologist or a limited permit x-ray technician to operate the equipment does not satisfy x-ray certification requirements. For information contact the Department of Health Services, Radiologic Health Branch, P.O. Box 997414, MS 7610, Sacramento, CA 95899-7414, (916) 327-5106.

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

You must register with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to administer, prescribe, or dispense any controlled substance. A permanent podiatric medical license is required to obtain a DEA registration number. To obtain an application call (888) 304-3251. The DEA has three locations serving California.

## **ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS (CONT')**

### **TRIPPLICATE PRESCRIPTIONS**

For information on triplicate prescriptions, contact the state Department of Justice, P.O. Box 160447, Sacramento, CA 95816, (916) 227-4050.

### **FICTITIOUS NAME PERMITS**

To practice under a fictitious business name, you must obtain a permit from the Medical Board of California (MBC). Fictitious names must meet legal requirements. Contact the MBC, Fictitious Name Permit Unit, 1200 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA 95815, (916) 263-2384.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

Effective January 1, 1986, section 11166 of the Penal Code requires any child care custodian, medical practitioner, nonmedical practitioner, or employee of a child protective agency who has knowledge of or observes a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment who he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving information concerning the incident. Failure to comply with the requirements of section 11166 is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars or both.

### **ADULT ABUSE REPORTING**

Doctors and most other health practitioners are required to report actual or suspected abuse of dependent adults including elderly dependent adults. Reports must be made whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse is present including physical or mental abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, intimidation, deprivation of nutrition or medical care, financial abuse, or other forms of mistreatment. Reports must be made to an adult protective service agency or a law enforcement agency, and are confidential.

## **LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

Doctors of podiatric medicine are responsible for being familiar with the laws and regulations governing their profession. These are available on our website. You may also obtain copies of *Laws Relating to the Practice of Physicians and Surgeons and Doctors of Podiatric Medicine* (ISBN: 0-930466-69-2) by contacting LawTech Publishing at (949) 498-4815 or via e-mail at: [sales@LawTechPublishing.com](mailto:sales@LawTechPublishing.com). Changes in laws and regulations may occur annually, so the website is the best source at any point in time.