

Alabama State Board of Podiatry

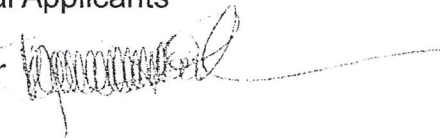
2777 Zelda Road Montgomery, Alabama 36106
Telephone: (334) 420-7237 Fax: (334) 263-6115



WEB: 1/31/24
- No page 2 -

MEMORANDUM

TO: Active Alabama DPMs and Potential Applicants

FROM: Keith E. Warren, *Executive Director* 

DATE: October 1, 2023

RE: New State Scope of Practice to include the Ankle

On May 3, 2023, Governor Kay Ivey signed Senate Bill 28 into law, expanding the scope of practice for Podiatry to include the ankle. The Board would like to extend its gratitude to the Alabama Podiatric Medical Association for its continued efforts to extend the scope of practice in the State. The Board hopes that the new law will encourage potential podiatrists to consider becoming licensed in Alabama, so its citizens will have more resources in obtaining Podiatric medical care, especially in rural areas.

Currently, all podiatrists can treat the ankle up to the distal one third of the leg. This is approximately the myotendinous junction of the Achilles tendon. In determining the limits of your license, it would depend on the level of your residency training (not the type of board certification).

The two (2) different levels of training identified in Podiatry's scope of practice are those with the following:

1. Thirty-six (36) or more months of residency training.
2. Those with less than thirty-six (36) months.

Please note: Thirty-six (36) months' residency does not have to be obtained at a single institution. For DPMs, who completed training prior to 2013, he/she may have done an RPR or PPMR with a PSR 24, which qualifies as meeting the 36 months of training. Some DPMs may have completed multiple twelve- (12) month programs at different institutions.

If the total training is thirty-six (36) months, a podiatrist is able to perform osseous ankle surgery (ankle fractures, osteotomies, osteochondral lesions, etc.). The only new procedure **prohibited** by the practice act is any amputation above the Chopart joint or