



Podiatrists Board of Queensland

Policy on Surgery by Podiatrists

The Board requires podiatrists to restrict themselves to performing those surgical procedures that are components of undergraduate podiatric training programs within Australian universities unless they possess relevant additional qualifications recognised by the Board.

The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) is recognised by the Board and the Australasian Podiatry Council as the professional body representing podiatric surgery in Australia. Fellowship of the ACPS is conferred to podiatrists who have successfully completed a recognised training program approved by the ACPS panel of examiners, which involves reconstructive and/or plastic surgical procedures.

Practitioners should be eligible for drug privileges from the appropriate regulatory authority in Queensland **and** be eligible for Fellowship of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) **and** be listed by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing as being a "Commonwealth Accredited Podiatric Surgeon" before undertaking procedures other than surgical procedures that are part of undergraduate podiatry programs. This includes surgical procedures below the level of the dermis, including those procedures involving skin, tendon, osseous and nerve tissue. Practitioners who satisfy these conditions are recognised as surgical podiatrists¹ by the Board.

Registrars (trainees) of the ACPS may undertake such procedures as part of fellowship training but only under the direct supervision of a Fellow of the College who is responsible at all times for the patient.

Other practitioners should restrict themselves to the areas above the dermis, until such time as they can:

- i) fulfil ACPS requirements; or
- ii) demonstrate competence in surgical practice as determined by the Board.

Podiatrists with overseas qualifications who believe they should be recognised by the Podiatrists Board of Queensland to perform reconstructive and or plastic surgical procedures (eg osteectomy, neurectomy, tenotomy) must submit themselves for review by the ACPS and be eligible to qualify for/as a Fellow of the ACPS.

All podiatrists involved in the practice of surgical podiatry should possess:

1. public liability insurance commensurate with the level of surgery being performed; and
2. a current Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation certificate.

¹ the term is podiatric surgeon in other Australian jurisdictions

Continuing Professional Competence

The Board and the ANZCPRB² are considering the national framework for peer review, ongoing audit and mandatory continuing professional education for FACPS developed by the ACPS. This framework was implemented in January 2007. Fellows of the College will be required to demonstrate that they have completed the requirements for National Accreditation (three year cycle). In addition, Fellows are required to provide an annual report to the Board which details that they are actively working towards, and/or maintaining their Accreditation, as well as the following information:

1. The professional development and continuing education activities undertaken, including all peer review activities
2. Details of the clinical care pathways in place for immediate post-operative management and ongoing post-operative care of patients, in accordance with the guidelines of the ACPS.
3. The nature and number of surgical procedures performed in the preceding twelve month period by the Fellow
4. The nature and number of any adverse outcomes or complications encountered, which are considered sentinel events including but not limited to: re-admission for infection, re-admission for DVT, and re-admission to hospital for management of other medical complications.
5. The Fellow must comply with the requirements of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation and the Board's 'Guidelines for the use of restricted substances by podiatrists'

Similarly, Registrars of the ACPS will be required to provide an annual report to the Board which details the following information:

1. The professional development and continuing education activities undertaken, including all peer review activities and satisfactory completion of the 6 monthly reviews by the ACPS
2. The nature and number of surgical procedures performed/assisted/observed in the preceding twelve month period by the Registrar. In accordance with ACPS requirements, Registrars must maintain an up-to-date logbook of their surgical activity and this should be available for inspection by the Board or its representatives upon request. The Board may seek clarification of a Registrar's progress by contacting the Council of the ACPS.
3. In accordance with ACPS requirements, any adverse outcomes or complications encountered by the registrar, must be reported and to the supervising Fellow for appropriate management. Registrars must comply with this requirement at all times.

The registrar must comply with the requirements of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation and the Board's 'Guidelines for the use of restricted substances by podiatrists'

The annual report will be required to be received by the Board on the anniversary of the date of approval being provided for practice as a surgical podiatrist in Queensland. For Registrars of the ACPS the annual report should be provided at the end of each calendar year. The reports will be considered by the Board, its relevant committees (eg Podiatrists Board Drug Advisory Committee) or expert advisors as deemed appropriate.

Fellows who have been practising in other states and intend to practise in Queensland will be required to provide the above information to the Board, pertaining to their practice in the other states, before commencing surgical practice in Queensland.

² Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards