

**Department Of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Office of Health Professions and Facilities
Washington State Podiatric Medical Board
Policy/Procedure**

Title:	Criteria For Expert Reviewers And Witnesses	Number: PO95-27
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Contact:	Program Manager	
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Approved	Board	
Signature	Suzanne Wilson, DPM, Chair	

PURPOSE

To establish criteria for expert witnesses which provides for utilization of the services of individuals who have the expertise to identify nonconformance within the community standards of podiatric practice. These individuals should have sufficient credentials and/or experience to validate their position as an expert witness.

POLICY

An expert witness should exhibit the following qualifications:

1. Hold a current and valid Washington license, or if residing in another state a license in that state, to practice podiatric medicine and surgery.
2. Be certified by one of the boards recognized by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education.
3. Have surgical staff privileges in at least one general acute care hospital.
4. Must not be the subject of any current compliance, restriction, limitation, etc. as a result of disciplinary action against their license by any jurisdiction.
5. Must not be under investigation by the Board of Podiatric Medicine or the subject of such a case pending in the Attorney General's office for a violation of any laws relating to the practice of podiatric medicine at the time of appointment.
6. Must not have any conflict of interest regarding the case to be reviewed.

Conflicts

The expert witnesses must remove themselves from any case in which they:

1. Are or ever have been in a professional practice, the same podiatric or medical group, corporation or partnership, or served in a faculty position with the subject of the investigation or disciplinary action.

2. Have or ever had any business relationship, professional or otherwise, with the subject of the investigation or disciplinary action.
3. Have or ever had a close personal relationship with the subject of the investigation or disciplinary action.
4. Are a member of the same hospital staff.
5. Have ever served in any peer review capacity relative to the subject of the investigation or disciplinary action.
6. Have ever had any other relationship or been in any situation that may appear to compromise consideration or examination of the subject of the investigation or disciplinary action.
7. Have a financial interest in the outcome of the action of the board.
8. Have discussed the subject's qualifications or the facts of the subject's case with another person other than the consulting board member, the staff of the board, or any of its legal counsel.

While a member of the board, no member shall serve as an expert witness or consultant in any legal or administrative matter involving a doctor of podiatric medicine.