

**Department Of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Office of Health Professions and Facilities
Washington State Podiatric Medical Board
Interpretive Statement**

Title:	Podiatric physicians conducting pre-surgical histories and physicals	Number: PO99-44
Reference:	September 10, 1999, November 12, 1999, May 12, 2000, November 22, 2002; April 12, 2012; July 12, 2012	
Contact:	Program Manager	
Effective Date:	November 22, 2002	
Supersedes:	November 19, 1999	
Approved:	Board	
Signature:	Suzanne Wilson, DPM, Chair	

Statement:

RCW 18.22.035 defines the practice of podiatric medicine and surgery as the diagnosis and the medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and electrical treatments of ailments of the human foot. WAC 246-922-001 Scope of Practice (2) provides that "In diagnosing or treating the ailments of the functional foot, a podiatric physician and surgeon is entitled to utilize medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, radiological, and electrical treatment methods and the diagnostic procedure or treatment method may be utilized upon an anatomical location other than the functional foot. ..."

Podiatric physicians are trained in general aspects of medicine, including conducting a history and physical.

Pre-surgical histories and physicals are within the scope of practice of podiatric physicians. Individual hospitals determine who may perform histories and physicals for surgery and admittance to their facilities.