

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENT LICENSE AND PERMANENT LICENSE

### GENERAL INFORMATION

In order to practice Podiatric Medicine in the State of California (CA), whether participating in a postgraduate training/resident program or permanent practice, applicants must first obtain a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) license. A license is issued by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) after meeting all the licensure requirements.

***Practicing without a valid California license is a misdemeanor punishable by law.***

#### **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. DPMs are also licensed to assist medical and osteopathic doctors (MDs, DOs) in any surgery, podiatric or non-podiatric. More information on scope of practice may be found on our website at [www.bpm.ca.gov](http://www.bpm.ca.gov).

#### **ANKLE SURGERY**

Passage of BPM's oral clinical examination after January 1, 1984, or passage of the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination Part III (formerly known as PMLexis) authorizes DPMs to perform ankle surgery and full DPM medical scope.

#### **LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

DPMs are responsible for being familiar with the laws and regulations governing their profession. Changes in laws and regulations may occur annually and any changes can be found on our website at [www.bpm.ca.gov](http://www.bpm.ca.gov).

#### **ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

In order to practice podiatric medicine, in addition to your DPM license, you must also obtain certification from other state and federal agencies.

**CERTIFIED RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIST** – A DPM may not use or supervise the use of x-rays on humans without certification from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as an x-ray supervisor or 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 more information, contact CDPH by phone at 916-327-5106 or visit their website at: [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov).

**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. For more information contact MBC by phone at 916-263-2384 or visit our website: [www.mbc.ca.gov](http://www.mbc.ca.gov).

**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** – A DPM must register with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to administer, prescribe, or dispense any controlled substance. You must obtain your permanent DPM license prior to registering for a DEA license. For more information and an application, contact the DEA office by phone at 800-882-9539, email at [Dea.registration.help@usdoj.gov](mailto:Dea.registration.help@usdoj.gov) or visit their website at: [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea).

**PRESCRIPTIONS FORMS** – For information on prescriptions form ordering, contact the California Department of Justice (DOJ) by phone at 961-227-3843, email at [securityprinter@doj.ca.gov](mailto:securityprinter@doj.ca.gov) or visit their website at: <https://oag.ca.gov/security-printers/approved-list>.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** – 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 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 or 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.

### **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for licensure in the state of CA as a DPM, applicants must have graduated from an approved college or school of podiatric medicine. All pre-professional postsecondary education transcripts must also be requested. *Official* transcripts must be requested and mailed directly from the school to BPM to be acceptable. Photocopies, faxes, unopened official transcripts submitted by the applicant, and non-approved electronic copies are **not** acceptable. Currently, the following nine podiatric colleges are approved:

[California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University](http://www.samuelmerritt.edu)  
Oakland, CA | (510) 869-6511 | [admissions@samuelmerritt.edu](mailto:admissions@samuelmerritt.edu)

[Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences, Podiatric Medicine & Surgery](http://www.barry.edu)  
Miami Shores, FL | (305) 899-3000 | [admissions@barry.edu](mailto:admissions@barry.edu)

[Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University](http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu)  
North Chicago, IL | (847) 578-3000 | [scholl.admission@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:scholl.admission@rosalindfranklin.edu)

[Des Moines University, College of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery](http://www.dmu.edu)  
Des Moines, IA | (515) 271-1400 | [info@dmu.edu](mailto:info@dmu.edu)

[New York College of Podiatric Medicine](http://www.nycpm.edu)  
New York, NY | (212) 410-8000 | [enrollment@nycpm.edu](mailto:enrollment@nycpm.edu)

[Kent State Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine](#)Cleveland, OH | (216) 231-3300 | [podiatry@kent.edu](mailto:podiatry@kent.edu)[Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine](#)

Philadelphia, PA | (215) 629-0300

[Arizona Podiatric Medicine Program at Midwestern University](#)Glendale, AZ | (630) 515-6171 | [admissaz@midwestern.edu](mailto:admissaz@midwestern.edu)[Western University of Health Sciences](#)

Pomona, CA | (909) 623-6116

**APMLE PARTS I, II and III (PMLexis)**

DPM licensure requires passage of the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination (APMLE) Parts I, II and III administered by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME). For more information about the exam, exam dates and tools, visit their website at [www.apmle.com](http://www.apmle.com).

BPM's oral clinical licensure examination has been replaced with the APMLE Part III (formerly known as PMLexis). Thomson Prometric sponsored by NBPME offers this examination in June and December each year. **Registration forms, including exam fees, must be received by Thomson Prometric by their registration deadline.** Registration information for Parts I, II and III can be found on their website at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).

**BACKGROUND CLEARANCE**

Fingerprint clearances from both the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) must be received prior to the issuance of a California DPM license.

If you are in California, you may have your fingerprints done by visiting a Live Scan location in your area. The prints will then be electronically submitted. This process is usually completed within 5 days. If you are out-of-state, please call the BPM office at 916-263-2647 to have fingerprint cards mailed to you. Upon receipt of the cards, have your prints taken at a local law enforcement agency in your area and then return the cards to BPM. BPM will then have them submitted to DOJ/FBI for processing. This manual process could take up to 60 days.

**RESIDENT DPM LICENSE INFORMATION**

A Resident DPM License is issued by the BPM for participation in a postgraduate training program in California for a specific *one year period*. The license may be renewed for continued participation in the training program for up to four years. Before the license can be renewed for a fourth year, you *must* obtain a permanent license by meeting all requirements.

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

All license requirements must be have an *original* signature. Transcripts and any required request documents must be sent directly from the university, college, licensing or reporting agency for primary source verification. Photocopies, faxes or scanned/emailed documents are **not** acceptable.

- ❖ License Application for Certificate to Practice Podiatric Medicine
- ❖ License Application processing fee
- ❖ Background clearance from DOJ and FBI
- ❖ Request *official* transcripts from **all** colleges and universities that you have attended (postsecondary education and medical education)
- ❖ Request score certifying passage of the APMLE Parts I and II
- ❖ Request license verification from all states or countries in which a medical license has been held, including a temporary or limited/resident license
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Residency Program Participation
- ❖ Resident License fee

### PERMANENT DPM LICENSE INFORMATION

A Permanent DPM License is issued by the BPM to practice podiatric medicine in California for a specific *two year period*. A renewal form will be send to your address of record approximately two months prior to your license expiration date. Before the license can be renewed, you *must* self-certify that you meet the renewal requirements of 50 hours of Continued Medical Education (CME) and at least one of the seven pathways of Continuing Competence.

At the time of your first renewal, if the residency training was completed within two years of the expiration date, your residency training satisfies the CME renewal requirements.

### PERMANENT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All license requirements must be have an *original* signature. Transcripts and any required request documents must be sent directly from the university, college, licensing or reporting agency for primary source verification. Photocopies, faxes or scanned/emailed documents are **not** acceptable.

- ❖ License Application for Certificate to Practice Podiatric Medicine
- ❖ License Application processing fee
- ❖ Background clearance from the DOJ and the FBI
- ❖ Request *official* transcripts from **all** colleges and universities that you have attended (postsecondary education and medical education)
- ❖ Request score certifying passage of the APMLE Parts I, II and III (PMLexis)
- ❖ Satisfactorily complete **two** year of postgraduate podiatric medical and surgical training in a residency program approved by the CPME
- ❖ Request license verification from all states or countries in which a medical license has been held, including a temporary or limited/resident license
- ❖ Request a Disciplinary Databank Report from the FPMB
- ❖ Permanent License fee

If you are licensed as a DPM in any other state, you must submit/meet the following:

- ❖ License Application for Certificate to Practice Podiatric Medicine
- ❖ License Application processing fee
- ❖ Background clearance from the DOJ and the FBI
- ❖ Request *official* transcripts from **all** colleges and universities that you have attended (postsecondary education and medical education)
- ❖ Request score certifying passage of the APMLE Parts I and II
- ❖ Request score certifying passage of the APMLE Part III (PMLexis) **within the last ten years.**
- ❖ Satisfactorily complete **one** year of postgraduate podiatric medical and surgical training in a residency program approved by the CPME
- ❖ Request license verification from all states or countries in which a medical license has been held, including a temporary or limited/resident license
- ❖ Request a Disciplinary Databank Report from the FPMB
- ❖ Permanent License fee

### CONTINUING COMPETENCE (CC)

Section 2496 of the State Medical Practice Act specifies the continuing competence requirements for DPMs and authorizes BPM to adopt regulations to ensure the “continuing competence of persons licensed to practice podiatric medicine.” At each renewal, a DPM must certify compliance with one of the following under penalty of perjury, subject to audit:

- ❖ passage of an exam administered by the board (within past 10 years)
- ❖ passage of an exam administered by an approved specialty board (within past 10 years)
- ❖ current, diplomat, eligible, or qualified status with an approved specialty board (within past 10 years)
- ❖ recertification by an approved specialty board (within past 10 years)
- ❖ completion of an approved residency/fellowship (within past 10 years)
- ❖ granting/renewing health care facility privileges (within past 5 years)
- ❖ passage of APMLE Part III administered by NBPME (within past 10 years)

### CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

BPM regulations require each licensee to complete 50 units/hours of approved CMEs during each two year license period. At least 12 units must be in subjects related to the lower extremity muscular skeletal system. **All courses must be scientific in content, and relate directly to patient care.** Licensees must maintain records of CME attendance for a minimum of 4 years in case of audit. The following courses are approved for CME credit:

- ❖ Programs approved by the California Podiatric Medical Association or the American Podiatric Medical Association and their affiliated organizations
- ❖ Programs approved for Category 1 credit of the American Medical Association, the California Medical Association, or their affiliated organizations, and programs approved by the American Osteopathic Association, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, or their affiliated organizations
- ❖ Programs offered by approved colleges or schools of podiatric medicine, medicine, and osteopathic medicine

BPM regulations require each licensee to complete at least 50 units/hours of approved CMEs during each two year license period. At least 12 units must be in subjects related to the lower extremity muscular skeletal system. **All courses must be scientific in content, and relate directly to patient care.** Licensees must maintain records of CME attendance for a minimum of 4 years in case of audit. The following courses are approved for CME credit:

- ❖ Programs approved by the California Podiatric Medical Association or the American Podiatric Medical Association and their affiliated organizations
- ❖ Programs approved for Category 1 credit of the American Medical Association, the California Medical Association, or their affiliated organizations, and programs approved by the American Osteopathic Association, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, or their affiliated organizations
- ❖ Programs offered by approved colleges or schools of podiatric medicine, medicine, and osteopathic medicine

Programs not included above may be approved by BPM following an application and review process. Courses approved by application to BPM must meet several criteria, including documentation that the course material is scientific in content and directly related to patient care. Courses in other subjects such as investments, tax planning, practice management, and risk management are not approved for credit.

A maximum of one-third of CME hours may be satisfied by teaching courses offered by an approved continuing education provider.

WAIVERS – An application for a waiver of CC/CME may be granted only for reasons of health, military service or undue hardship. This temporary waiver permits an additional 2 year license period for completion of deficient requirements, which must be documented at the following license renewal. If these are not completed, a license renewal will not be granted. A waiver cannot be extended nor will one be granted for two consecutive license renewal periods.

AUDIT – Annually BPM audits a random sample of DPMs for compliance. Licensees selected for audit must provide documentation of compliance for both CCs and CMEs during that specified renewal period. Failure to provide compliance will result in non-renewal of your DPM license.

## ORGANIZATIONS

[American Board of Podiatric Medicine](#)

(910) 375-0700 | [admin@abpm.org](mailto:admin@abpm.org)

[American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry](#)

(888) 852-1442 | [abmsp@abmps.org](mailto:abmsp@abmps.org)

[American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery](#)

(415) 553-7800 | [Info@abfas.org](mailto:Info@abfas.org)

[American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons](#)

(773) 693-9300 | [info@acfas.org](mailto:info@acfas.org)

[American Podiatric Medical Association](#)

(301) 581-9200

[Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards](#)

(202) 810-3762 | [fpmf@fpmf.org](mailto:fpmf@fpmf.org)

[American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination](#)

with National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners

(877) 302-8952

[California Podiatric Medical Association](#)

(916) 448-0248 | [cpma@calpma.org](mailto:cpma@calpma.org)

[Council on Podiatric Medical Education](#)

(301) 581-9200

[Department of Consumer Affairs](#)

(916) 263-2647 | [bpm@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bpm@dca.ca.gov)