

**PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA**  
**PO BOX 70, COLLINS STREET WEST 8007**

---

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PODIATRISTS**

*The following code refers to the professional behaviour of registered podiatrists*

- ⇒ The responsibility of podiatrists is for the health and safety of their patients.
- ⇒ It is also the responsibility of podiatrists to protect their own health and safety.
- ⇒ Podiatrists are responsible for all treatment undertaken by them and their staff working under their instruction or direction.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must follow current accepted standards of health care in accordance with the *Australasian Podiatry Council's Competency Standards* and the *Australian Standards (4187)*, on sterilisation protocols.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must maintain the clinical area of their practice in accordance with the *Australasian Podiatry Council's Competency Standards* and the *Australian Standards (4187)*, at an appropriate level of cleanliness.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must comprehensively assess and evaluate every patient in accordance with the *Australasian Podiatry Council's Competency Standards* and the *Australian Standards (4187)*.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must ensure their professional conduct is above reproach.
- ⇒ Podiatrists' services should be restricted to their areas of competence.
- ⇒ It is desirable that podiatrists maintain their professional competence by active advancement of their knowledge of scientific, clinical and technical developments.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must maintain the confidentiality of all patients according to law.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must comply with the *Health Privacy Principles* under the *Health Records Act* and guidelines issued by the *Health Services Commissioner*.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must ensure that assistants or clerical staff comply at all times with the standards of privacy according to law.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must not exploit their patients through over servicing or other activities including self-referral from a public institution to a private practice.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must avoid any conflicts of interest.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must maintain adequate records clearly demonstrating a care plan.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must maintain adequate records.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must avoid improper and potentially harmful conduct with patients.
- ⇒ Podiatrists must not engage in sexual activities with a current patient or for a reasonable period after the patient/podiatrist relationship ceases.

- ⇒ Podiatrists must treat and have respect for their patients' dignity and independence.
  - ⇒ It is desirable that podiatrists prior to any treatment clearly inform patients of all costs involved and when outlining treatment advise of any potential risks.
  - ⇒ All research activity undertaken by podiatrists needs to have the approval of a properly constituted human research ethics committee.
  - ⇒ When conducting audit activities the clinical facility, as part of its privacy provisions, should have informed patients of the potential for audit activity to occur
- 

E-Mail [registrar@podboardvic.vic.gov.au](mailto:registrar@podboardvic.vic.gov.au)