

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

Title:	Infection Control	Number: PO95-14
Reference:	Board Minutes May 7, 1993; July 16, 1993; April 24, 2008; April 12, 2012; July 12, 2012	
Contact:	Program Manager	
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Approved	Board	
Signature Board Chair	David Bernstein, DPM	

POLICY

The Podiatric Medical Board (Board) reviewed updated information pertaining to infectious diseases. The Board recognizes the seriousness and public concern over the spread of an increasing number of infectious diseases in the health care setting. The Board is sensitive to the privacy of both the practitioner and the public. The Board's primary mandate is public safety and, with that in mind, the Board has adopted the following policy with regards to infectious diseases.

For the purposes of infection control, the Board refers all podiatric physicians to the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Infection Control Guidelines. The CDC has researched and developed a collection of guidelines which pertain to keeping patients and healthcare workers in health care settings protected from infectious diseases. The Infection Control Guidelines are a common resource for all healthcare providers throughout the country.

The Board affirms the right of podiatric physicians to practice their profession so long as there is no identifiable risk of disease transmission to patients.

A podiatric physician who fails to observe appropriate infectious disease precautions and thereby injures a patient or causes an unreasonable risk of patient harm will be prosecuted for unprofessional conduct. RCW 18.130.180(15) provides that engaging in a profession involving contact with the public while suffering from a contagious or infectious disease involving serious risk to public health constitutes unprofessional conduct.