



Consultation Document

Proposal for:

Removal of the Podiatric Radiographic Imager Scope of Practice

Issued: Thursday, 14 December 2023

Submissions close: 5pm, Friday 26 January 2024

1. Consultation purpose

The Board is proposing the removal of the Podiatric Radiographic Imager scope of practice.

What does this proposed change mean for practitioners?

The impact on practitioners will be minimal as access to plain radiographic images and/or fluoroscopic images of the foot, ankle and lower leg are available to registered practitioners throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, without the requirement to utilise and maintain their own radiological equipment.

The Board notes that it is an old scope of practice which is no longer fully utilised, nor required for the safe practice of podiatry in Aotearoa New Zealand. There is currently one remaining practitioner registered in the Podiatric Radiographic Imager scope of practice.

2. Consultation process

Section 14(1) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 allows the Board to, at any time and by notice in the New Zealand Gazette, amend, revoke, or replace a notice setting out scopes of practice. The consultation process provides podiatrists and other interested parties (including professional associations and societies, Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health, Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora, and educational institutions) with an opportunity to make submissions.

3. Background

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act requires the Board to define the scopes of practice that make up the practice of podiatry in Aotearoa New Zealand. A scope of practice sets out the area of practice podiatrists work in, and their competencies, responsibilities, and qualifications. All practitioners registered with the Board must hold the Podiatrist scope of practice and can apply for further scopes of practice if they hold the qualification specifications for those scopes.

There are currently four scopes of practice for the podiatry profession, and the qualification specifications for each scope, for which a notice has been placed in the New Zealand Gazette. These scopes of practice are Podiatrist, Podiatric Surgeon, Podiatric Radiographic Imager, and Visiting Podiatrist Educator/Presenter.

The scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications for each of these four scopes are as follows:

Podiatrist

A registered primary health care practitioner (including those previously registered as a chiropodist) who utilises medical, physical, palliative, and surgical means other than those prescribed in the Podiatric Surgeon scope of practice, to provide diagnostic, preventative, and rehabilitative treatment of conditions affecting the feet and lower limbs.

Qualification

A Bachelor of Health Science in Podiatry from an accredited Aotearoa New Zealand University or a National Diploma in Podiatry or Chiropody from the Central Institute of Technology or equivalent overseas qualification as determined by the Podiatrists Board.

Podiatric Surgeon

A registered primary health care practitioner who holds the scope of practice of Podiatrist and is further qualified to perform foot surgery by way of sharp toe nail wedge resection; surgical correction of lesser digital deformities affecting the phalanges, metatarsals and associated structures; surgical corrections of deformities affecting the first toe, first metatarsal and associated structures; surgical correction of deformities of the metatarsus, mid-tarsus, rear foot and associated structures; surgical correction and removal of pathological subcutaneous structures such as tendentious and nervous tissues and other connective soft tissue masses of the foot.

Qualification

A Post Graduate qualification in Podiatric Surgery as determined by the Podiatrists Board or equivalent overseas qualification.

Podiatric Radiographic Imager

A registered primary health care practitioner who holds the scope of practice of Podiatrist, who is qualified to use radiological equipment, and is licensed by the Ministry of Health Office of Radiation Safety, to obtain plain radiographic images and/or fluoroscopic images of the foot, ankle, and lower leg.

Qualification

As part of the New Zealand undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science in Podiatry or satisfactory completion of an accredited post graduate training course in podiatric radiography.

Visiting Podiatrist Educator/Presenter

A visiting registered Podiatrist who qualifies for the scope of practice of Podiatrist, and when appropriate for their specialty area of education, also qualifies for an additional scope of practice of Podiatric Surgeon and/or Podiatric Radiographic Imager as determined by the Podiatrists Board, who is presenting short-term educational/instructional programmes requiring demonstrations or practices, of a clinical or practical nature.

Qualification

Qualifications as to the individual educator speciality areas as recognised by the Podiatrists Board.

4. Have your say

Please provide your feedback on the proposal to *removal the Podiatric Radiographic Imager scope of practice by 5pm, Friday 26 January 2024. Where possible please also give reasons for your feedback.*

You can submit your response to: registrar@podiatristsboard.org.nz

Submissions received will be published on our website and will record the submitter's name and profession (for registered podiatrists). All other contact details will be removed. We will not publish any submissions containing derogatory or inflammatory content.

As this is a public consultation process, "In confidence" information will only be accepted under special circumstances. Please contact us before submitting material in confidence.

If you have any questions about this consultation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Phone: **04 474 0706** Email: registrar@podiatristsboard.org.nz