



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
BOARD OF LICENSURE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE L. HEAD
DIRECTOR

January 6, 2006

Dear Licensees:

Please accept this letter as notification that at its December 1, 2005 meeting, the Board of Podiatric Medicine discussed with its legal counsel the question of whether licensed podiatrists have statutory authority to direct an employee in their podiatric office to perform toe nail trimmings.

After a thorough discussion of the issue and after receiving legal advice from its attorney, the board concluded that the podiatry practice statute (Title 32, Chapter 51) does not authorize a licensed podiatrist to delegate the diagnosis or treatment of maladies of the human foot or ankle (i.e. the practice of podiatric medicine).

Recently, the department met with representatives of the Maine Foot & Ankle Society, who anticipate submitting a legislative proposal to the 122nd Maine Legislature. The draft legislation, as outlined by the association, would amend the podiatry statute to allow a licensed podiatrist to delegate certain services to podiatry assistants. Further, the draft legislation would require the board to adopt by agency rulemaking the specific training and supervision for such podiatric assistant services.

For more information regarding the legislation proposal, please contact Dr. Brad Samojla, the representative of the Maine Foot & Ankle Society at (207)596-0314, or you can contact Dr. Samojla by e-mail at bgsamojla@earthlink.net

Additionally, if you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Penny Vaillancourt, Board Administrator, at (207)624-8420 for further clarification or information.

Sincerely,

Shannon Meredith, D.P.M.
Chair, Board of Podiatric Medicine

cc: Anne L. Head, Director, OLR
Dennis Smith, Assistant Attorney General
Penny Vaillancourt, Board Administrator
Board Members



PHONE: (207)624-8603

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(207) 624-8563 (HEARING IMPAIRED)

FAX: (207)624-8637

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 122 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE