

Choosing the Appropriate Foot Specialist for Your Patients' Needs

	Members of the College of Chiropodists of Ontario (Chiropodists/Podiatrists)	Pedorthists
Provincially Regulated Health Profession	✓Yes - under the Regulated Health Professions Act ¹ and The Chiropody Act ²	✗No. Health care is provincially regulated. The College of Pedorthics of Canada is <i>not a legally mandated regulatory body</i> , but a national organization run <i>by</i> pedorthists, <i>for</i> pedorthists.
Treat and prevent diseases, disorders and dysfunctions of the foot by therapeutic, orthotic and palliative means (from the 'Scope of Practice' statement in The Chiropody Act, 1991)¹	✓Yes. Provide medical treatment for a broad variety of routine foot conditions via therapeutic means (including surgery), foot and ankle/foot orthotics, physical therapy and palliative treatments as well as care of high risk patients including but not limited to those with PVD, diabetes and requiring wound care	✗No. Trained in the assessment of lower limb anatomy and biomechanics. ³
Primary Care Practitioners	✓Yes. No referral is required to see a member of the College of Chiropodists of Ontario.	✗No. Assist customers based on a referral from a prescribing regulated healthcare professional. ³

Trained and licensed to diagnose, prescribe and dispense orthotics	✓Yes. Patient-centred care is enhanced. There is a thorough understanding of the patient's needs and follow-up to ensure improved outcomes are connected to the initial complaints.	xNo. Have education and training in the design, manufacture, fit and modification of foot orthotics and footwear but rely on a referral from an appropriately trained regulated health care professional. ³
Communicate a diagnosis identifying a disease or disorder of the foot as the cause of a person's symptoms	✓Yes²	xNo
Cutting into subcutaneous tissues of the foot and bony tissues of the forefoot	✓Yes²	xNo
Prescribe Medications	✓Yes²	xNo
Inject substances into feet	✓Yes²	xNo
Legally require to maintain liability insurance (minimum \$2 million) due to Controlled Acts in scope	✓Yes²	xNo

1. Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O., 1991, Ch. 18: An Act respecting the regulation of Health Professions and other matters concerning Health Professions.
2. Chiropody Act, 1991, S.O., 1991, Ch. 20: An Act respecting the regulation of the Profession of Chiropody
3. The College of Podiatrists of Canada: www.cpedcs.ca