



College of  
Chiropodists  
of Ontario

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# **PROVIDING MEDICALLY NECESSARY FOOTCARE SERVICES**

**Guideline for Registrants of the  
College of Chiropodists of Ontario**

**Approved by Council: October 1, 2026**

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## Introduction

Registrants are regulated health professionals who assess and provide treatment for a broad range of medical conditions of the foot. The guideline outlines the College’s expectations for how registrants conduct their practice and the difference between medically necessary chiropody or podiatry care and cosmetic or aesthetic foot and nail services, which are not permitted to be offered as part of a registrant’s clinical practice. It outlines registrants’ responsibilities for assessing patients, providing treatment, advertising services, billing appropriately, and operating their practices in a manner that protects the public and maintains professional integrity.

This guideline must be read alongside all applicable legislation and College standards and guidelines, including:

- [Assessment and Management](#)
- [Records](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Fees, Billing and Accounts Guideline](#)

## “Medical Pedicures”

Registrants do not provide, advertise, promote, or bill for cosmetic or aesthetic services, including “medical pedicures.”

The term “medical pedicure” is not recognized in the [Chiropody Act, 1991](#) or the College’s standards, and the term does not describe a chiropody or podiatry service that is within the scope of practice. Use of this term is misleading to the public about the nature of the foot care provided by registrants.

Registrants provide assessment, treatment, and preventive care for diseases, disorders, and dysfunctions of the foot. Registrants must accurately describe the services they provide and use terminology that reflects the professional and clinical nature of their care.

Examples of regulated foot and nail care services include:

- Assessment and management of nail disorders;
- Assessment and management of skin disorders;
- Routine foot care for patients at higher risk of complications; and
- Other treatments aimed at preventing or managing diseases, disorders, or dysfunctions of the structure of the foot.

## Medical Necessity

Section 4 of the [Chiropody Act, 1991](#) defines the scope of practice of chiropody as:

“The assessment of the foot and the treatment and prevention of diseases, disorders or dysfunctions of the foot by therapeutic, orthotic or palliative means.”

The therapeutic goal of chiropody or podiatry care is to prevent, manage, or treat diseases, disorders, and dysfunctions of the foot, reduce pain, maintain function, and prevent complications. Registrants may only provide professional services that are **medically necessary and clinically justified** based on their assessment of the patient.

Chiropody or podiatry services must be directed toward:

- Assessing disease, disorder, or dysfunction of the foot.
- Treating a disease, disorder, or dysfunction of the foot.
- Preventing disease, disorder, or dysfunction of the foot.

It is professional misconduct for registrants to practice while in a conflict of interest, and this includes providing products or services to patients that are not medically necessary. Services provided primarily for cosmetic, aesthetic, or relaxation-related purposes are not part of professional chiropody or podiatry practice and are not medically necessary. Offering those

services to patients gives rise to a conflict of interest. Examples of cosmetic or aesthetic services include:

- Applying nail polish;
- Decorative nail treatments;
- Skin moisturizing treatments;
- Cosmetic nail enhancements;
- Spa treatments provided for beautification and relaxation, such as massage, waxing; and
- Other purely aesthetic services, such as the treatment of spider veins.

## Advertising

Registrants must comply with the College's Advertising standard and all applicable legislation, including [Ontario Regulation 203/94](#) under the *Chiropody Act, 1991*. Advertising must accurately describe the services provided and registrants must not advertise in a manner that is likely to promote or encourage the unnecessary use of professional services. This prohibition includes the advertising of cosmetic or aesthetic services as an adjunct to a patient's chiropody or podiatry care.

Registrants must not:

### Use the Term "Medical Pedicure"

- Advertise, market, promote, or otherwise describe any service as a "medical pedicure."
- Use the term "medical pedicure" in advertisements, websites, social media content, invoices, receipts, fee schedules, patient communications, or any other promotional materials.
- Describe professional chiropody or podiatry services using terminology that suggests they are a type of pedicure.
- Advertise or permit others to advertise the Registrant's practice in a manner that breaches these professional standards.

## Records and Billing

Registrants must maintain accurate and complete records and may only bill for services that:

- They personally perform; and
- Are medically necessary and clinically justified.

Records, invoices, bills, and accounts must accurately describe the services and products provided by a registrant, in accordance with the [Fees, Billing and Accounts Guideline](#).

Registrants **must not**:

- bill for services provided by an aesthetician, pedicurist, or other regulated or unregulated provider for products or services that are outside the scope of practice and/or not medically necessary or
- use the term “medical pedicure” on invoices, receipts, insurance documentation, fee schedules, or any other billing records.

Where a service is cosmetic in nature and can appropriately be provided by an aesthetician or pedicurist, it is not considered medically necessary chiropody or podiatry care and must not be billed as a professional chiropody or podiatry service.

## Separate Commercial Activities

Registrants may own or operate businesses outside their professional practice, including a spa.

However:

- Spa services must not be offered or provided as part of a chiropody or podiatry clinic or a part of a chiropody or podiatry service.
- Cosmetic and aesthetic business must be clearly separate from the registrant’s clinic practice in both advertising and physical space.
- Registrants must not practise chiropody or podiatry in association with a commercial business, which includes a business owned or operated by the registrant that offers cosmetic services.
- A registrant cannot offer or advertise cosmetic services to promote their chiropody or podiatry practice or to promote the unnecessary use of chiropody or podiatry services and/or to incentivize patients.

Registrants are responsible for ensuring that patients can clearly distinguish between regulated professional services and non-regulated commercial services.

## Key Principles

1. Registrants do not provide, advertise, promote, or bill for “medical pedicures.”
2. All advertising must accurately reflect the medically necessary nature of professional services.

3. Registrants must personally assess patients to determine whether treatment is clinically indicated.
4. Registrants may only provide products and treatments that are medically necessary and clinically justified.
5. Registrants are accountable for clear, complete, and accurate documentation in accordance with the Records standard.
6. Billing must accurately reflect the services personally provided by the registrant and must only include medically necessary, clinically justified care.

## References

- [Advertising](#)
- [Assessment and Management](#)
- [Fees, Billing and Accounts Guideline](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 203/94](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 750/93](#)
- [Records](#)