



College of  
Chiropodists  
of Ontario

# Competence

Approved by Council: 2002  
Reviewed and Updated: May 29, 2025

## Introduction

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The overriding responsibility of a registrant is to act in the best interest of their patients. In fulfilling this professional and fiduciary obligation, a registrant must possess a sound understanding of their professional capabilities, their areas of competence, and their professional limitations.

In other words, individual 'self-regulation' is an important aspect of self-regulation of the profession as a whole. Registrants must continually assess their knowledge, skill and judgment ( i.e. their competence), and determine whether they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to treat a particular patient, especially when a patient presents with an unfamiliar issue or one the registrant does not have the expertise or past experience to provide treatment.

Knowing when to seek clinical consultation, and when to refer a patient to another professional is integral to a registrant's professional obligations as a regulated practitioner. Registrants must act in the best interest of patients and ensure that patients are not harmed by a registrant's failure to acknowledge their own professional limitations. Among other concerns, it is an act of professional misconduct where a registrant fails to advise a patient to consult with a physician or other regulated health professional where the registrant recognizes, or ought to recognize, that the patient's condition is beyond the registrant's competence or experience or consultation is required to ensure the proper care of the patient.

## Requirements

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1. Registrants are responsible for maintaining their competence.
2. Registrants are responsible for evaluating their educational needs and meeting those needs through continuing education or professional development.
3. Registrants must perform within their scope of practice, education and experience and adhere to the standards of practice of the profession in providing advice and/or treatment to patients.
4. Registrants must assist patients to find the necessary professional help when the condition or status of the patient falls outside their scope of practice, education or experience.
5. Registrants must not engage in the practice of chiropody/podiatry while their ability to do so is impaired.

6. Registrants must meet the quality assurance requirements outlined in *Ontario Regulation 203/94* (Quality Assurance) and the Quality Assurance Policy.
7. Registrants must maintain current knowledge of legislation, standards and policies pertaining to the delivery of chiropractic/podiatric care and to the education or general welfare of their patients.

## References

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[Code of Ethics](#)

[Ontario Regulation 203/94 – General Regulation](#)

[Ontario Regulation 750/93 – Professional Misconduct Regulation](#)

[Quality Assurance Policy](#)