

The Value of Care Provided by Podiatrists: Providing Savings to Patients and to the U.S. Health-care Delivery System

Podiatrists Prevent and Treat Complications from Diabetes

According to the CDC, nearly 26 million Americans live with diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower-limb amputation; however, amputations can be prevented. A recent study published in the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association* (JAPMA) compared health and risk factors for those who had seen a podiatrist for care to those who had not and concluded that increased utilization of care by podiatrists in patients with diabetes could result in significant direct health-care savings.

Podiatrists receive the education, training, and experience necessary to provide quality foot and ankle care to patients, and at the same time present cost-containment solutions to our health-care delivery and financing systems.

Access to a Podiatrist Can Lead to Savings for U.S. Health-care Delivery Systems

According to the study published in JAPMA:

- Among patients with commercial insurance, a savings of \$19,686 per patient with diabetes can be realized over a three year period if there is at least one visit to a podiatrist in the year preceding an ulceration. Diabetic ulcerations are the primary factor leading to lower extremity amputations.
- Among Medicare-eligible patients, a savings of \$4,271 per patient with diabetes can be realized over a three year period if there is at least one visit to a podiatrist in the year preceding an ulceration.
- Conservatively projected, these per-patient numbers support an estimated \$10.5 billion in savings over three years if every at-risk patient sees a podiatrist at least one time in a year preceding their ulceration.

Care by Podiatrists Offers a Positive Return on Investment

According to the same study published in JAPMA:

- Among patients with commercial insurance, each \$1 invested in care by a podiatrist result in \$27 to \$51 of savings.
- Among Medicare eligible patients, each \$1 invested in care by podiatrists result in \$9 to \$13 of savings.

For More Information:

JAPMA Study: www.apma.org/trstudy

Today's Podiatrist: www.todayspodiatrist.com

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