

# Podiatrists: Your Partners in Health Care

An estimated 11 million Canadians currently live with diabetes or prediabetes.

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, it is “the leading cause of non-traumatic lower limb amputation in Canadian adults, accounting for approximately 70% of amputations performed in hospital.”



"Compared to the general population, Canadian adults with diabetes are over 20 times more likely to undergo non-traumatic lower limb amputations, 85% of which are preceded by a foot ulcer."

Canadian Diabetes Association  
<https://www.diabetes.ca/advocacy---policies/our-policy-positions/amputation-prevention>



"After an amputation, the chance of another amputation within three to five years is as high as 50 percent. Following a major amputation in diabetes, only around half of patients survive for more than two years."

College of Podiatry (U.K.)  
<https://cop.org.uk/news/our-response-to-public-health-england-figures-on-lower-limb-amputation/>



"Five-year survival rates following lower limb amputation are lower than for breast cancer and prostate cancer. Following a major amputation in diabetes, only around half of patients survive for more than two years."

American Podiatric Medical Association  
<https://www.apma.org/Patients/FootHealth.cfm?ItemNumber=980>

An interprofessional team approach to diabetic care is the only way to reduce the human and fiscal toll of diabetes. Treating diabetes is expected to cost Canadians almost \$30 billion this year, and result in thousands of lost limbs.

Podiatrists bring a wide range of competencies to foot care as the professionals with the widest scope of practice, providing a full range of foot care and surgery on and below the surface of the foot and ankle. We can assess, diagnose, and treat foot ailments, and you can find podiatrists operating at both primary care and surgical levels.

## Podiatrists are a cornerstone in the interprofessional team approach to limb preservation across Canada.

Visit [www.podiatrycanada.org/partners-in-health-care/](http://www.podiatrycanada.org/partners-in-health-care/) for more information and to find a partner in diabetic limb preservation.



"The facts tell the story. The costs tell part of the impact of diabetes. The loss of limbs and life captures the horrendous human price paid by those living with diabetes, but what's missing is the tragedy of not including trained podiatrists to perform to their full scope of practice to play a much-needed frontline role in the prevention of diabetic limb loss."

James Hill, D.P.M., President of the CPMA.

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