

Podiatrists and the Coronavirus Pandemic

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

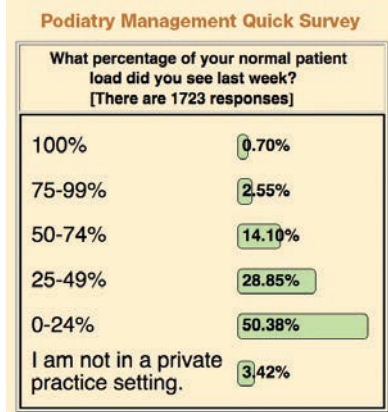
For nearly four decades *Podiatry Management* has chronicled the many challenges that have faced podiatrists. Nothing, however, could prepare us for the devastation that COVID-19 has inflicted on every facet of life as we know it. During the first week of March, only 4% of *PM News* readers polled predicted that the coronavirus would severely affect their practices. Just one month later (see chart), about 80% of practices were seeing fewer than half their normal patients, with many offices completely closed.



Hopefully, by the time you read this, conditions will have begun to return to the “new normal.” Yes, we will survive this pandemic; however, our lives will never be the same. If we learn some hard

lessons from this crisis, we will be better prepared for future catastrophes. That means having adequate business interruption insurance and adequate stockpiles of both supplies and money (or a line of credit).

We would be remiss if we didn't thank our residency directors, residents, and podiatric volunteers who have stepped up and risked their lives to work on the front lines to treat COVID-19 patients. Your acts of courage, kindness, and competence give us all hope that the future of podiatry will be bright.



This issue of *Podiatry Management* features many informative articles on how you and your staff can cope with the coronavirus pandemic. As this special edition was being developed, we knew at *PM* that we were facing the challenging task of needing to be timely, but at the same time we were well aware that the future remained uncertain—how much of our lives and our practices would be “back to normal” by the time your eyes were scanning these pages? We realized, however, that you would find this information essential in any case—whether, as you read this, the crisis is continuing with major force, or threatening a second appearance in the fall, or winding down—in which case you'll need to know the basics as “best practices” for an unwelcome (but possible) similar future event.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dedicated to Practice Growth and Prosperity Since 1982

Volume 39, Number 5

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Periodicals postage paid at Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 and additional entry.

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