

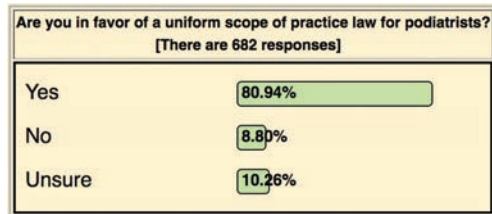
Time for a Uniform Podiatric Scope of Practice Law

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

Looking back on the relatively short history of podiatry, it is indeed impressive to see how far it has advanced in such a short period of time. The modern era began with the issuing of the Selden Report in 1960. This document was essentially equivalent to the 1920 Flexner Report which established educational standards for MDs and established the basis for universal licensing of physicians. The first recommendation of this report was that “The APA (now the APMA) create and widely employ an acceptable definition of the profession.”



We often take for granted that the DPM degree was not adopted by all podiatry schools until 1971! Applicants took a Podiatry Aptitude Test. In



the ‘70s residencies were in their infancy, with a majority of them one-year long to those fortunate enough to procure one. Podiatry considered itself somewhat autonomous from other medical specialties.

For example, most practitioners did not wear gloves when examining or treating patients unless they were performing surgery!

Fast forward fifty years and all that has changed. Applicants take MCATs. Schools have standardized curriculums accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and graduates complete 3-year residencies (also accredited by CPME). Despite this standardization of education and training, the scope of practice varies from state to state. It’s time for a uniform podiatric scope of practice law, and the granting of license reciprocity among all states.

Respectfully Submitted,

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