

## What is an Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Surgeon?

Orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons are medical doctors (MD) who specialize in the diagnosis, care, and treatment of patients with disorders of the musculoskeletal system of the foot and ankle. This includes the bones, joints, ligaments, muscles tendons, nerves, and skin. Orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons use medical, physical, and rehabilitative methods as well as surgery to treat patients of all ages. They perform reconstructive procedures, treat sports injuries, and manage and treat trauma of the foot and ankle.

Orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons work with physicians of many other specialties, including internal medicine, pediatrics, vascular surgery, endocrinology, radiology, anesthesiology, and others.

Medical school curriculum and post-graduate training provides the solid clinical background necessary to recognize medical problems, admit patients to a hospital when necessary, and contribute significantly to the coordination of care appropriate for each patient.

### Education

- Completed four years of medical school. The curriculum covers basic and clinical sciences, surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine and all other medical specialties
- Completed five years of accredited post-graduate medical education (residency training) in orthopaedic surgery
- Advanced fellowship training in foot and ankle surgery.
- Satisfactory completion of the national medical licensing examination
- Continuing medical education credits over a specific time period.
- Board certification: Certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Orthopedic Surgery
- Member of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society and American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society.

