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| Number: POD 13 | Date: November 17, 2021 |
| Subject: Schedule of Podiatric Benefits Amendments effective November 15, 2021 | Reference: Schedule of Podiatric Benefits |

To: All Podiatrists and billing staff

Effective November 15, 2021:

Nurse practitioners will be able to refer patients to podiatrists for consultations, specifically Health Service Codes (HSCs) 03.07AB and 03.08AA.

A ‘consultation’ is a situation where a nurse practitioner requests the opinion of a podiatrist and the consultant assesses the patient and provides a written opinion with treatment recommendations to the referring nurse practitioner. Consultation may not be claimed for transfer of care alone.

This change has resulted in amendments to several general rules in the Schedule of Podiatric Benefits (SOPB). The amendments are described in the attachment A below, with revised text shown in bold print.

The revised SOPB will be posted online at: <https://www.alberta.ca/fees-health-professionals.aspx>

Inquiries:

Any inquiries regarding this change can be sent to health-pcsp.admin@gov.ab.ca.

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| Contact: Provider Compensation and Strategic Partnerships Branch | Approval: Camille Bailer |
| Email: health-pcsp.admin@gov.ab.ca | Position: Executive Director Provider Compensation and Strategic Partnerships Branch |

Attachment A – Amended Governing Rules (GRs)

5.3.1 Comprehensive Consultation: An in-depth evaluation of a patient with a written report to the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician. This service includes the recording of a complete podiatric history, performing a complete podiatric physical examination, an appropriate record and advice to the patient. It may include the ordering of appropriate diagnostic tests and procedures as well as discussion with the patient and the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician.

5.3.2 Limited Consultation: Limited assessment of a patient and a written report to the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician. A limited consultation includes a history limited to and related to the presenting problem, and an examination which is limited to relevant body systems, an appropriate record, and advice to the patient. It may include the ordering of appropriate diagnostic tests and procedures as well as discussion with the patient and the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician.

5.4.1 In this Schedule "consultation" means that situation where a podiatrist, **a nurse practitioner** or a physician after an appropriate examination of the patient, requests the opinion of a podiatrist and the consultant does a history and examination and review of the diagnostic data and provides a written opinion with recommendations as to the treatment, to the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician. Consultations may not be claimed for transfer of care alone.

5.4.2 The need for a consultation can arise as a result of the following:

- a) some unusual or serious clinical problem,
- b) a podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician requires further advice regarding diagnosis or management, or both, or
- c) the patient, parent or guardian requests another opinion.

5.4.3 A referral may be accepted from any person; however, to receive reimbursement as a consultation, communication must exist between a referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician and the consultant in the form of:

- a) written communication (consultation request or letter),
- b) verbal communication, or
- c) communication between podiatrists', **nurse practitioners'** and/or physicians' agents at the direction of the podiatrists, **nurse practitioners** and/or physicians.

5.4.5 A benefit for continuing care may be claimed by a consultant following a consultation where the continuing care is provided at the request of the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician.

5.4.6 Repeat consultations may not be claimed unless a further request has been initiated by and received from the referring podiatrist, **nurse practitioner** or physician for another consultation. A repeat consultation is not appropriate if initiated by the consultant.