

**Policy Clarification  
Medicaid  
General Assistance  
PMG15418305**

**Submitted: 08/ 04/ 10**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Citations:**

**Subject: Pennsylvania's Definition of a "Physician"**

Is a podiatrist considered a physician for the purpose of signing the Employability Assessment Form (PA 1663)?

**Response By: Division of Health Services**

**Date: 08/ 04/ 10**

No. 55 Pa. Code 1141.2 defines a physician as, "An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice medicine and surgery within the scope of the Medical Practice Act of July 20, 1974 (P. L. 551, No. 190) (63 P. S. § 421.10) or the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act (63 P. S. §§ 271.1—271.18)." Page 4 of the Act defines "physician" as, "A medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy".

The forms must be completed by a psychologist, physician, or medical professional under the physician's supervision and authority, e.g. physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner.

A podiatrist is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), does not work under a physician's supervision and therefore is not considered a physician for the purpose of signing the Employability Assessment Form (PA 1663).

Information from a chiropractor, podiatrist, or oral surgeon is not acceptable medical verification.