The Value of Care Provided by Podiatrists:
Providing Savings to Patients and to the U.S. Health-care Delivery System

Podiatrists Prevent and Treat Complications from Diabetes

According to the CDC, nearly 26 million Americans live with diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower-limb amputation; however, amputations can be prevented. A recent study published in the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association* (JAPMA) compared health and risk factors for those who had seen a podiatrist for care to those who had not and concluded that increased utilization of care by podiatrists in patients with diabetes could result in significant direct health-care savings.

Podiatrists receive the education, training, and experience necessary to provide quality foot and ankle care to patients, and at the same time present cost-containment solutions to our health-care delivery and financing systems.

**Access to a Podiatrist Can Lead to Savings for U.S. Health-care Delivery Systems**

According to the study published in JAPMA:

- Among patients with commercial insurance, a savings of $19,686 per patient with diabetes can be realized over a three year period if there is at least one visit to a podiatrist in the year preceding an ulceration. Diabetic ulcerations are the primary factor leading to lower extremity amputations.

- Among Medicare-eligible patients, a savings of $4,271 per patient with diabetes can be realized over a three year period if there is at least one visit to a podiatrist in the year preceding an ulceration.

- Conservatively projected, these per-patient numbers support an estimated $10.5 billion in savings over three years if every at-risk patient sees a podiatrist at least one time in a year preceding their ulceration.

**Care by Podiatrists Offers a Positive Return on Investment**

According to the same study published in JAPMA:

- Among patients with commercial insurance, each $1 invested in care by a podiatrist result in $27 to $51 of savings.

- Among Medicare eligible patients, each $1 invested in care by podiatrists result in $9 to $13 of savings.

**For More Information:**
JAPMA Study: [www.apma.org/trstudy](http://www.apma.org/trstudy)
Today’s Podiatrist: [www.todayspodiatrist.com](http://www.todayspodiatrist.com)