

AFSC 42F4, Staff
AFSC 42F3, Qualified
AFSC 42F1, Entry

★PODIATRIC SURGEON
(Changed 31 Oct 23)

1. Specialty Summary. Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases and injuries of the foot, ankle, and related structures by surgical and conservative means. Manages podiatric services. Plans, conducts, and directs research in the area of podiatric medicine and surgery. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260809.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

- 2.1. Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases and injuries of the foot, ankle, and related structures by surgical and conservative means and application of corrective mechanical devices. Interviews patient and records patient's case history to determine previous ailments and complaints. Performs examinations to determine physiological and physical abnormality of the foot, ankle, and related structures. Conducts tests and determines radiological and clinical laboratory tests required. Interprets laboratory and radiology results in evaluating examination findings. Determines appropriate preoperative and postoperative care. Applies surgical procedures and coordinates operation with anesthesiologist. Performs surgical procedures of the foot, ankle, and related structures as credentialed by facility. Performs pre-operative and inpatient admission history, physical examinations, and determines need for appropriate specialty consult/referral. Reduces and immobilizes fractures by open or closed methods, using such corrective devices as braces, casts, and splints. Administers and prescribes such conservative measures of treatment as antibiotics, drugs, and corrective mechanical devices.
- 2.2. Manages podiatric surgical services. Formulates plans and procedures for podiatric surgery services. Schedules operations and assigns podiatrists, nurses, and medical technicians. Directs nurses in procedures for preoperative and postoperative care and operating room techniques. Advises on kind and quantity of podiatric supplies and equipment. Coordinates podiatric services with other medical activities. Instructs residents and students in podiatric surgical techniques. Serves as consultant on podiatric medicine and surgery.
- 2.3. Conducts research in podiatric medicine/surgery. Plans and conducts clinical research. Reviews and studies case histories, analyzes data, and participates with other scientists and physicians in programs to investigate new techniques and methods to improve foot health and human effectiveness of Air Force personnel.

3. ★Specialty Qualifications:

- 3.1. Knowledge. Fulfillment of education requirements satisfies this qualification requirement.
- 3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree from an approved college of podiatric medicine is mandatory.
- 3.3. Training. Not used.
- 3.3.1 Experience. For entry and award of AFSC 42F3, completion of a 36-month Podiatric Medicine and Surgery residency, accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME), is mandatory.
- 3.4. Other. The following are mandatory:
 - 3.4.1. For entry, award and retention of AFSCs 42F3/4:
 - 3.4.1.1. Must have a current, valid, active and unrestricted license to practice podiatric medicine from a state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, is mandatory.
 - 3.4.2. ★For award and retention of AFSC 42F3/4: Must obtain and maintain clinical privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, Medical Quality Operations (or be immediately eligible for said privileges if assigned to a non-clinical position).
 - 3.4.3. For entry of these AFSCs, Board Qualified/Certified by American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS). (Board Qualification/Certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery is highly desired.)
 - 3.5. Requirements for award of 42F3/4 are to meet within 6 months of military assignment; waivable by the 42F BSC Associate Corps Chief.