



Strategic. Sustained. Proactive.

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Advancing Podiatric Medicine in Texas

TPMA's advocacy work continues year-round and extends far beyond the legislative session. During the 2025–2026 interim, TPMA has been actively engaged in policy development, stakeholder collaboration, regulatory education, and relationship-building with legislators and allied healthcare organizations. These sustained efforts allow TPMA to identify emerging issues early, educate policymakers and stakeholders, build strategic alliances, and develop a thoughtful, effective legislative agenda before the next session convenes.

Why TPMA & APMA Membership Matters

Your membership is more than dues — it is an investment in protecting your license, your scope of practice, and your ability to care for patients in Texas and across the country.

Through TPMA at the state level and the APMA at the national level, podiatric physicians have a unified voice in legislative, regulatory, and payer policy decisions.

Together, TPMA and APMA work year-round to:

- Defend hospital privileges
- Protect scope of practice
- Reduce administrative and regulatory burdens
- Advocate for fair business protections
- Influence Medicare and federal policy
- Build relationships with lawmakers and healthcare leaders

State advocacy and national advocacy work hand-in-hand.

When you are a TPMA member, you strengthen both your state association and APMA — ensuring podiatric medicine has a powerful voice at every level of government.

Healthcare Collaboration

TPMA continues to engage with healthcare organizations to identify common ground on legislative priorities and leverage collective resources to advance meaningful, positive change.

Texas Orthopedic Association (TOA)

Several meetings were held to discuss legislative agendas and opportunities for collaboration.

Discussion Points for Collaboration:

- Placing restrictions on down-coding by health insurance companies
- Enacting limitations on health insurance claw-backs of payment after prior authorization has been granted

Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TxANA)

A meeting was held on January 29, 2026, to explore potential areas of collaboration.

Discussion Points:

- Delegation of authority legislation
- Lack of statutory authority for podiatrists to delegate to APRNs
- Recognition of the distinct legal scopes of practice for both professions

TPMA Action: TPMA is working with TDLR to determine whether this issue can be included in its 2027 legislative agenda. TPMA has also discussed the matter with the TMA and TOA.

Texas Medical Association (TMA)

TPMA met with Shannon Vogel, Associate Vice President of Health Information Technology at TMA, to discuss the CMS WISer Model.

Additionally, TPMA President Dr. Nere Onosode met with TMA President Dr. Jayesh "Jay" Shah, MD, to discuss legislative and regulatory advocacy, insurance and reimbursement issues, and matters related to medical education and training.





Protecting Your Practice & Patient Access

Hospital Privileges & H&P Documentation

TPMA developed a comprehensive History & Physical (H&P) Documentation Packet to support DPMs seeking hospital privileges.

Packet Includes:

- Podiatric medical education & training standards
- Texas scope of practice clarification
- CMS & Joint Commission standards
- CPME education and training standards
- Position statements from American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and American Podiatric Medical Association

Impact:

- APMA and TPMA is committed to issuing formal support letters for DPM hospital applications.
- Texas scope clarification publicly available on TPMA website.
- Full H&P packet available to members in the Member Portal on the TPMA website.

CMS WISeR Model

The CMS Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) Model introduces prior authorization for select outpatient Medicare services. Texas is one of six participating states.

- Services impacting podiatrists include skin substitute / CTP application for diabetic foot ulcers and venous leg ulcers under Medicare Part B.
- Cohere Health is the CMS-approved vendor overseeing the WISeR prior authorization/review process in Texas.

TPMA engagement:

- Met with TMA (February 6, 2025).
- Met with with Cohere Health on February 25 with TMA and the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders.
- APMA resources have been disseminated to members.
- TPMA developed a Texas-specific WISeR guidance document.

Non-Compete Reform

In 2025, SB 1318, championed by Sen. Charles Schwertner, revised how non-compete agreements apply to healthcare professionals. Podiatry was excluded.

TPMA Advocacy:

- Met with Sen. Schwertner's staff
- Discussed proposed amendments:
 - Section 1: Adding DPMs licensed by TDLR to the statute, ensuring departing podiatrists are not denied:
 - Access to a list of patients treated within the prior year
 - Access to patient medical records
 - Section 2: A cleanup provision adding DPMs under the definition of "health care practitioner" in Texas's covenant-not-to-compete law

Lymphedema Compression Coalition (LCC)

TPMA received a formal request from the Lymphedema Compression Coalition regarding whether Texas podiatrists are authorized to evaluate and treat lymphedema and prescribe pneumatic compression devices (PCDs).

- Request followed a CGS Medicare contractor education session suggesting lymphedema treatment may fall outside podiatric scope.
- CGS later clarified that coverage is based on state-defined scope of practice.

APMA guidance:

- DPMs are recognized as physicians under Medicare and may prescribe PCDs if authorized by state scope of practice.
- APMA reports no known denials related to DPM PCD prescribing and is monitoring the issue.

TPMA action:

- Dr. George T. Liu, Chair of the TPMA Scope of Practice Committee, was consulted.
- TPMA prepared a formal response to LCC.

Your Membership Fuels This Work.

TPMA advocacy is laying the groundwork for:

- ✓ Stronger hospital privileges
- ✓ Protected scope of practice
- ✓ Fair non-compete protections
- ✓ Reduced prior authorization burden
- ✓ Effective 2027 legislative strategy



Ongoing Coordination with TDLR

TPMA is actively working with TDLR to discuss legislative priorities

Active discussions include:

- APRN delegation authority
- Compact considerations
- Non-Compete Reform

Political & Community Engagement

- Legislative fundraisers
- PAC check delivery
- Direct lawmaker engagement
- Participation in the American Diabetes Association Step Out Walk and Health Fairs

Policy Engagement

On October 2, Dr. Andy Bruyn, Logan Spence, and Melinda Daise met with Tom Wolfe, Policy Director for the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute.

- Discussions focused on issues likely to arise in the next legislative session.
- Mr. Wolfe expressed interest in understanding how hospitals grant, or deny staff privileges to podiatrists, an issue stemming from TPMA legislation that failed in prior sessions.

Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact

The Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards is developing an Interstate Compact.

TPMA completed due diligence including:

- Board presentation
- TDLR consultation
- Legislative analysis

Legislative Landscape:

- 27 compact bills filed last session
- No healthcare compact bills passed
- Compact bill for cosmetologists vetoed

Strategic Recommendation:

Not viable for the upcoming session. TPMA continues monitoring long-term opportunity.

Summary

These activities demonstrate TPMA's sustained, strategic advocacy outside the legislative session, laying the groundwork for policy success, strengthening relationships, and advancing podiatric medicine across Texas.

Advocacy is year-round, not just during session!



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