

# Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania

## Infection Control Policy

<b>Policy Number</b> 9/2002	<b>Date Updated</b> 26/8/2005	<b>Replaces</b> N/A	<b>Review</b> 1/1/2008
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### Introduction

The Podiatrists Registration Board has participated in the development of “National Infection Control Guidelines for Podiatrists”, which was coordinated by the Australasian Podiatry Council in consultation with state registration boards. The primary aim is to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases in the podiatric setting. The national guidelines have been written to reflect the principles behind successful infection control and serves as an essential tool for all podiatrists in the implementation of infection control strategies.

The Board has adopted these national guidelines as the minimum requirements for podiatrists registered in Tasmania. This policy aims to outline the aim of infection control guidelines and their implementation by the Podiatrists Registration Board.

### Aim

The primary aim of the policy and the national guidelines is to assure the Tasmanian community that registered podiatrists meet minimum standards in respect to infection control procedures. It provides a standard or benchmark against which podiatrists should assess their own practice and for the Board to assess the adequacy of infection control by registered podiatrists.

### Implementation

Podiatrists are responsible for the safe practice of podiatry including infection control procedures that minimise risk of cross infection between patients or between health workers and patients.

Implementation of the policy is based on the principle that all procedures within a podiatry practice are performed in accordance with current recommended guidelines. Podiatrists who do not meet the minimum requirements of the Board may be subject to disciplinary action under the Podiatrists Registration Act 1995.

All podiatrists shall have access to a current copy of the policy. The Board shall circulate this information and details of any changes or review. Podiatrists upon being registered by the Board shall be given the opportunity to obtain a copy of the policy and guidelines.

The Board wishes to implement the policy in a co-operative manner with podiatrists and the profession through the Australian Podiatry Association – Tasmania. Podiatrists will be given a reasonable opportunity to comply. Should the policy and national guidelines highlight particular areas requiring attention there is the opportunity for the profession to include these in continuing education programs.

Monitoring of the level of compliance with the policy and guidelines is through an ongoing circulation of Self Assessment Questionnaires that podiatrists will complete. Comparison of results from different questionnaires will highlight any areas requiring attention. There will be regular feedback to podiatrists and the Australian Podiatry Association – Tasmania.

Should there be any areas of compliance of particular concern, including any complaints about infection control the Board is empowered under the Podiatrists Registration Act to investigate this matter. Section 54 of the Act empowers an Inspector appointed by the Board to enter the business premises of a registered podiatrist and conduct an inspection. This inspection may include compliance with the national guidelines and other infection control standards.

Approved

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Chairperson