

## **NYSPMA Study Confirms Podiatry's Pivotal Role in Meeting New York State Health Goals**

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The New York State Podiatric Medical Association (NYSPMA) contracted with Navigant Consulting to “quantify the value of podiatric services in helping reach healthcare goals.” The findings clearly show that expanding podiatry’s role in New York State healthcare “may reduce inpatient admissions, reduce long-term healthcare costs and decrease opioid prescribing for target populations.” Four conditions were studied: diabetes, obesity, substance abuse/back pain, and fall prevention, each of which is aligned with New York health goals. In addition to stating the relevance of these conditions to New York State residents, the report’s data analysis pointed to potential reductions in adverse problems related to the conditions as well as cost savings that result from patient utilization of podiatric services for each condition.

“The survey revealed that podiatry services and treatment may decrease opioid dispensing (28 percent) among persons with back- and podiatric-related pain diagnoses, decrease falls (36 percent) among elderly and at-risk populations, and reduce hospitalizations relating to obesity (19 percent) and diabetes (37 percent),” noted PM News. The study concludes that “podiatry has the potential to assist in these efforts and provides key services for target conditions in New York’s DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment) program, which will shift “at least 80 percent of Medicaid managed care payments to providers from fee-for-service to value-based payment by 2020.”