



TAKE A NEW LOOK AT  
**FOOT & ANKLE SURGEONS**

# FOOT & ANKLE SURGEONS: PARTNERS IN DIABETES CARE

## FOOT & ANKLE SURGEONS TODAY

Foot & ankle surgeons are *the* leading experts for a wide range of complex foot and ankle conditions, especially those that result from diabetes. They are skilled, experienced specialists who will ensure the best possible care for your diabetic patients. Foot & ankle surgeons are integral members of the multidisciplinary patient care team because they are:

**True specialists.** No other healthcare provider has more education and training specific to the foot and ankle than foot & ankle surgeons. Because diabetes patients are at a higher risk for many lower extremity conditions with serious implications for their overall health, it's important for them to establish a relationship with a true specialist like a foot & ankle surgeon. Foot & ankle surgeons will manage their continuum of care to keep small problems from becoming big problems and to expertly address the more serious complications of their disease.

**Board-certified.** To earn certification from the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery, foot & ankle surgeons must undergo a comprehensive testing process that ensures they have demonstrated the highest level of surgical proficiency.

**Collaborative partners.** Foot & ankle surgeons regularly partner with diabetes educators in both in-patient and out-patient settings to ensure best patient outcomes.



## WHEN SHOULD I RECOMMEND A FOOT & ANKLE SURGEON?

The short answer is: right away. All patients with diabetes should have a board-certified foot & ankle specialist on their multidisciplinary care team. Having diabetes increases the risk of developing a wide range of foot problems as a result of nerve damage and poor circulation. Foot & ankle surgeons are uniquely qualified to detect the early warning signs of diabetes and develop comprehensive treatment plans for:

**Simple to complex conditions.** Small foot problems can often turn into serious complications for diabetes patients. Foot & ankle surgeons can treat a variety of conditions from calluses to ulcers to keep feet healthy.

**Advanced-surgical procedures.** Left untreated, diabetes can result in serious conditions, such as Charcot foot or diabetic peripheral neuropathy, which could require surgery.

**Limb salvage.** Regular care from a foot & ankle surgeon can help patients stay healthy and prevent amputation.

### RECOMMEND FOR:

Common diabetes-related foot conditions can quickly become serious, so it's important to know what to look for. Foot & ankle surgeons will work with you to keep an eye on:

- Bone infections/healing
- Ulcers that don't heal
- Charcot foot
- Diabetic peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage)
- Amputation prevention
- Hammertoes
- Bunions
- Cracked heels
- Corns
- Calluses
- Ingrown toenails
- Trauma
- Foreign body injuries



### HOW DO I FIND A FOOT & ANKLE SURGEON?

TO FIND AN ACFAS FOOT & ANKLE SURGEON IN YOUR AREA, VISIT

[takeanewlook.org](http://takeanewlook.org)



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Foot and Ankle Surgeons®