The Top 10 Things To Know When Choosing Your Podiatrist
by Dr. Lowell Weil, Jr.
Dear Friend,

If you suffer from foot or ankle pain that hinders you from fully enjoying life, being active, or spending time with your loved ones, you are in the right place. Everyone’s feet are different, and so are the ways in which podiatrists treat foot problems. In your search to find the best podiatrist for your needs, you may feel overwhelmed by all of the options available. How can you know if a podiatrist truly understands your needs and how to treat your unique pain effectively?

At Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, our goal is to educate you, make sure you know all of your options, and give you the best treatment possible. Our greatest joy is derived from hearing our patients tell us that their pain is gone, and ultimately, we want to help you have healthy and pain-free feet so you can live life to its fullest.

Choosing a podiatrist is no easy task, however in order to make the best decision, you need to be educated. That’s why I’ve put together this report, “Top 10 Things To Know Before Choosing a Podiatrist.” Our goal is to inform you and help you learn about what aspects of choosing a podiatrist are important from a patient’s perspective. This way, you can choose a doctor who best suits your needs, even if it isn’t us.

All the best,

Dr. Lowell Weil, Jr.

P.S. Your foot or ankle pain may be more serious than you think, so when you’re ready, I invite you to call us with any questions or to set up your initial consultation. You can go to www.YourILPodiatrist.com or call 847.383.0386.
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ARE THEY BOARD CERTIFIED?

It is very natural to want to feel secure about your doctor’s medical background. When a doctor is Board certified in foot and ankle surgery, it means they have top knowledge in their field. Additionally, look to see whether the doctor is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

The APMA is an organization of podiatrists who have completed the highest levels of education and want to advance the latest techniques in podiatry. Indeed, the APMA consists of thousands of leading, highly-trained podiatrists from around the world! Usually, the doctor will hang a framed sign in their office to let you know that they fulfill these important standards.
DO THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS?

A podiatrist should take the time to sit down with you and take a consultative approach. This essentially means that they listen to your symptoms and your needs, and then discuss your options with you. A good podiatrist will partner with you to discuss your concerns, answer all of your questions, and decide on the best treatment option for your condition as well as your lifestyle.

Here at Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, all of our doctors consider themselves your partners in podiatry. We’ll discuss your options with you, go over the details of each option, and guide you toward the best possible result. Your feet are your foundation, and we want to treat them with the utmost care.
ARE THEY INVOLVED IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT OF THE PODIATRIC FIELD OF MEDICINE?

When researching a podiatrist in Illinois, it is important to find a podiatrist that cares and contributes to furthering the research and development of the podiatric field. Your podiatrist should strive to advance his or her knowledge in order to better assist his or her patients.

At Weil Foot & Ankle Institute in Illinois, our team of experts make it their mission to transform the world of podiatry for the better. The podiatrists at Weil Foot & Ankle Institute have been featured in countless publications and consistently continue to research the latest podiatry studies. As a patient, you are in the hands of specialists that truly care for you!
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**NUMBER 4**

DO THEY USE THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY AND TREATMENT?

While every licensed physician meets the minimum requirements for basic patient care, the best doctors invest in continuing education and innovative new equipment so they can give their patients access to the best technology and treatment options available. Ask your podiatrist what conditions they can and cannot treat and whether the following equipment and treatment therapies are available:

- Ultrasound
- Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) injections
- X-Ray
- Digital Orthotic Scanner

By having high-tech diagnostic equipment and treatment options on site, Weil Foot & Ankle Institute can often diagnose and treat a wide range of foot and ankle conditions without delay. This eliminates the need to refer patients to off-site labs or third-party clinicians. It’s all part of our investment in effective and efficient patient care.
**DO THEY SEE PATIENTS OF ALL AGES?**

Pediatric podiatry is a specialty area and not all podiatrists have the necessary training to effectively tackle conditions such as tarsal coalition (also known as rigid pediatric flatfoot) or in-toeing that are more common in children. Before taking your child to a new podiatrist, ask whether they have the specialized training necessary to see to the unique needs of pint-sized patients.

There’s no age restriction for people who come to see us at Weil Foot & Ankle Institute in Illinois. Dr. Weil and his team of experts understand the importance of early intervention when it comes to our patient’s podiatric needs. We will partner with you to find the best solution for your foot condition, regardless of age.
DO THEY RECOMMEND TREATMENT BESIDES SURGERY?

9 out of 10 times, foot surgery isn’t necessary for most patients. Though there are some cases where this is a necessary last resort, there are many alternatives to having foot surgery today.

If your podiatrist has exhausted all other non-surgical options, he or she may still be able to offer minimally invasive procedures instead of full-blown foot surgery. Technological advances have made your options numerous, and your podiatrist should be able to work with you to find the best options available for your needs.

At Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, you have the option for a wide variety of treatments, surgery being a last resort. The human body is amazing in its power to heal, and we’ve learned to work with it to make treatments easy, safe, and as pain-free as possible.
DO THEY OFFER SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS?

Sometimes waiting to be seen for your foot pain is simply not an option. While the majority of your appointments will be scheduled weeks or even months in advance, it’s nice to know that your doctor is ready and willing to address any concerns you have regarding your condition in a timely manner.

As a patient with Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, you’ll have access to the care you need, when you need it. Depending on your unique situation, you may be able to receive same day treatment as well. Our podiatrists want to make sure you live the life you want, pain-free. Your pain solutions is top priority at Weil Foot & Ankle Institute.
Your podiatrist should have some experience under their belt. Typically, the more experience someone has, the better they are at what they do. When it comes to your health, you should be especially discerning – and this includes treatment for foot or ankle pain, or any other problems concerning the feet.

Between all of the doctors at Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, we’ve helped over 200,000 patients gain relief from foot, ankle, and even heel pain. Our time in practice and the vast number of patients who have found pain relief and reclaimed their active lives are a testament to our commitment to you.
ARE THEY EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD?

Is your podiatrist highly regarded by his or her peers? Has your doctor participated in research studies, taught at a college or university, been featured on the lecture circuit, trained in innovative new techniques, spent a respectable amount of time in the operating room, and established him or herself as a leader in the medical community? If your podiatrist is board certified and has years of experience, you are in good hands.

At Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, all of our doctors have unique expertise. As a patient, you can rest easy knowing that your podiatry care is in the hands of an experienced group of podiatrists. Dr. Lowell Weil, Jr. and our expert podiatrists are board certified, and constantly invest in furthering their education. Ultimately, our goal is to give you the greatest care possible, and we know in order to do this we have to remain educated on the latest and greatest treatment options and technologies!
DO THEY ACCEPT MOST INSURANCES?

Insurance often raises questions for people who have foot or ankle pain. These questions, however, can usually be answered by contacting your preferred podiatrist, who should be able to give you the options available to you based on your specific needs.

Typically, Weil Foot & Ankle Institute accepts most insurances, and we may be able to help you even if your insurance is limited. To find out what your options are, ask questions, and learn how we can help you and your unique case, please give us a call at 847.383.0386.
Though many podiatry offices offer payment plans, not all plans are created equal. Some bill you in intervals themselves, while others outsource the payment plan option to a third party financing service, while others may not even have a payment plan option available. Of course it depends on your unique needs and situation, but is a payment plan something you’re seeking as an option for your podiatric treatment?

Here at Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, we know that things can come up at inopportune times, which is why we will work with your budget and find the best plan for you. This option allows us to treat you while you have the benefit of making payments as opposed to paying for the entire treatment at once, which is especially helpful if you don’t have insurance.
Closing Letter from Dr. Lowell Weil Jr.

Dear Friend,

I certainly hope that you’ve found the information contained in this report helpful in your research for finding a podiatrist for yourself or a loved one. I also hope that it has illustrated how Weil Foot & Ankle Institute can help you with your foot or ankle conditions, in most cases without surgery.

During your first visit, we’ll address any questions or concerns you may have. Because we take a consultative approach, you and your doctor will go over your treatment options together and decide on the best approach moving forward. The main purpose of this report was to inform you about some of the main things to consider as you’re choosing your podiatrist, so I hope that we were able to guide you to your best decision, even if you don’t choose us.

Of course this report only covers a portion of things that you should consider when making your decision; in fact, I could have easily doubled its length! However, I am confident that the information contained will help you to make your best decision as far as choosing a podiatrist.

Most importantly, please know that I am always here to address any questions you may have.

All the Best,

Dr. Lowell Weil, Jr.

P.S. When you are ready to schedule your first appointment, please give us a call at 847.383.0386 or visit www.YourILPodiatrist.com to request an appointment today.