



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

**2013 Wisconsin Act 345
[2013 Senate Bill 518]**

**Duty of Podiatrists, Chiropractors,
Dentists, and Optometrists
to Inform Patients**

Under state law, as amended by 2013 Wisconsin Act 111, any physician who treats a patient is required to inform the patient about the availability of reasonable alternate medical modes of treatment and about the benefits and risks of these treatments. The “reasonable physician” standard is the standard for informing a patient under this provision. The reasonable physician standard requires disclosure only of information that a reasonable physician in the same or a similar medical specialty would know and disclose under the circumstances. The physician’s duty to inform the patient does not require disclosure of any of the following:

- Detailed technical information that in all probability a patient would not understand.
- Risks apparent or known to the patient.
- Extremely remote possibilities that might falsely or detrimentally alarm the patient.
- Information in emergencies where failure to provide treatment would be more harmful to the patient than treatment.
- Information in cases where the patient is incapable of consenting.
- Information about alternate medical modes of treatment for any condition the physician has not included in his or her diagnosis at the time the physician informs the patient.

2013 Wisconsin Act 345 codifies the same duty to inform a patient for podiatrists, chiropractors, dentists, and optometrists.

Effective date: April 25, 2014. The Act first applied to a podiatrist, chiropractor, dentist, or optometrist required to inform a patient about modes of treatment on April 25, 2014.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.