



Value of Podiatry: Importance of Foot and Ankle Care in Vermont

- 4/17/25
- Vermont House Committee on Health Care
- Ethan Buhl, DPM
- Stephen Merena, DPM

S 126 “Health Care
Payment and Delivery
System Reform”-
Shared Goals

Improvements in Health Outcomes

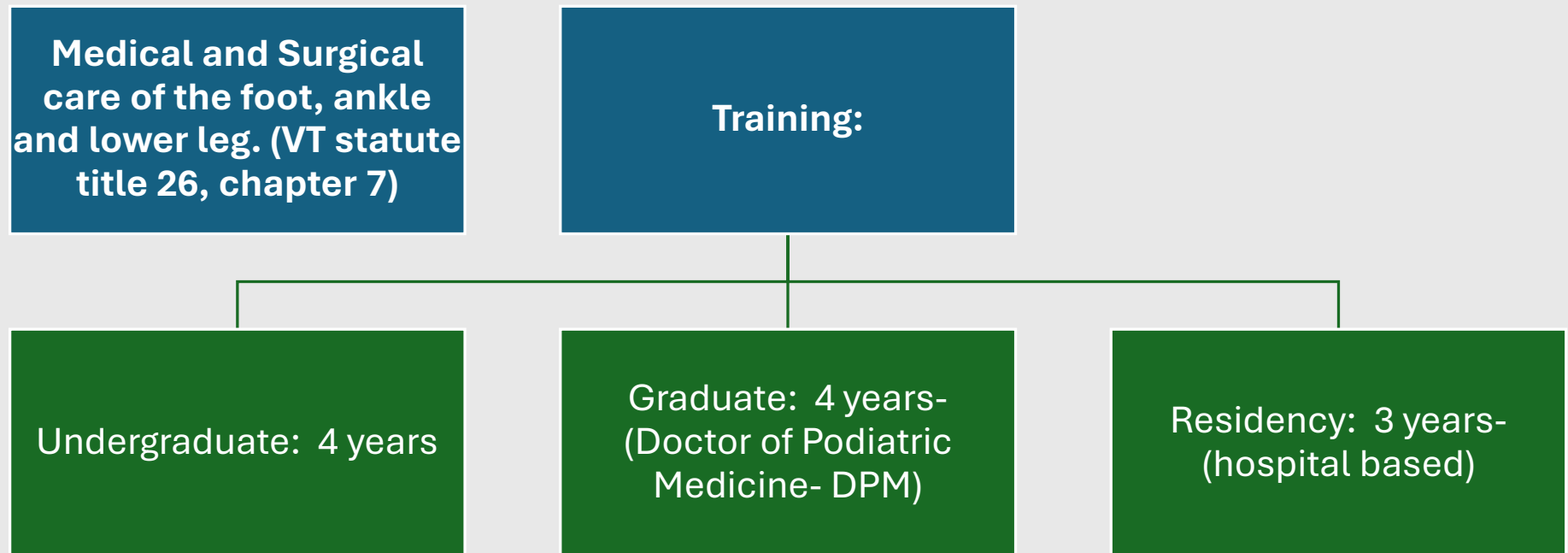
Quality of Care

Regional Access to Services

Improve Care Coordination

Control Costs in Delivery of Quality Care

What is Podiatry?



Podiatry in Vermont

~30 licensed
podiatrists

Independent
practices and
hospital employed

Academic Faculty at
UVM Larner COM


Active member
serving on the
Vermont Medical
Board

Care of patients:


Clinics

Inpatient hospital
care

Nursing homes



2022 ADA Economic Cost of Diabetes

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- “We now know that medical costs for people living with diabetes **increased by 35% over the past 10 years**. The ADA’s Economic Report reaffirms that, in addition to its enormous physical and health burden, diabetes also carries an untenable cost burden that is often **disproportionately borne by vulnerable and underserved communities**,” said Charles “Chuck” Henderson, the ADA’s CEO. “Reducing the cost of diabetes is essential to improving the lives of all people with diabetes. November is American Diabetes Month®, and as we continue our fight to end diabetes, we **urge policymakers and the entire health care system to see this report as a call to action to prioritize affordable diabetes care.**”



Diabetic Limb Salvage

- Neuropathy, vascular disease and foot deformity
 - Ulceration
 - Infection
 - Hospitalization
 - Risk of amputation
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- Team approach with primary care physicians, hospitalists and other medical specialists

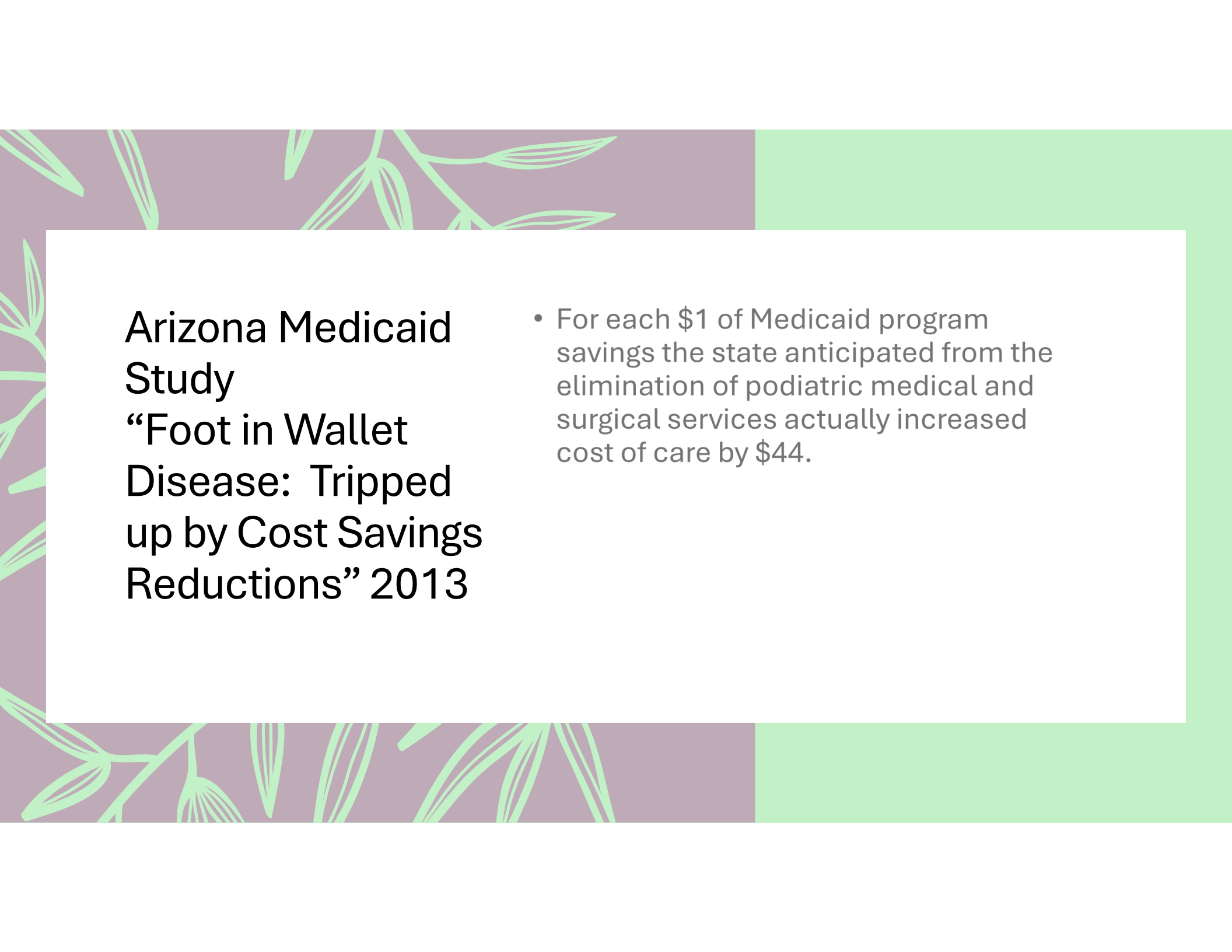
Value of Podiatry

Reuter's
Study

Duke
University
Study

Arizona
Medicaid
Study

California
Medi-Cal
Study



Arizona Medicaid Study “Foot in Wallet Disease: Tripped up by Cost Savings Reductions” 2013

- For each \$1 of Medicaid program savings the state anticipated from the elimination of podiatric medical and surgical services actually increased cost of care by \$44.

S 126 “Health Care
Payment and Delivery
System Reform”-
Assist with input:

Green Mountain Care Board

- Health Resource Allocation Plan

Agency on Human Services

- Office of Health Care Reform

Statewide Health Care Delivery Plan