Introductory Letter from Dr. Kordai I. DeCoteau

Dear Friend,

Are you suffering from foot or ankle pain that's affecting your ability to enjoy day-to-day life? Have you found yourself shying away from the activities you used to love or planning your weekends around your discomfort? If any of these scenarios ring true – either for you or for a loved one – you’ve come to the right place.

Podiatry is not a one-size-fits-all specialty; different doctors have different backgrounds, different treatment philosophies, and even different payment policies, all of which can make it hard for you to decide which podiatrist is right for you.

At Weil Podiatry of New York, we believe that our patients deserve a treatment plan that’s every bit as unique as they are. After all, not all feet are the same, are they? Our goal is to answer your questions, address each one of your concerns, and then work with you to find the best way forward. Our consultative approach turns your appointment into a partnership; be it through preventative care or corrective surgery, our goal is to help you find a way to live your life to the fullest.

There's nothing we love more than hearing our patients say their pain is gone, which is why we put together a special report designed to assist patients in their search for a doctor they know they can trust. We know that choosing a podiatrist can be difficult, but our hope is that this list of the Top 10 Things You Should Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist will help make the process a little bit easier.

With best wishes for a healthy life and happy feet,

Dr. Kordai DeCoteau
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Are They Board Certified?

A medical license is the minimum standard that must be met before doctors can legally practice medicine. Board certification, on the other hand, indicates that a physician has exceptional knowledge of a particular specialty or sub-specialty, such as dermatology, oncology, pediatrics, or podiatry. To become board certified, a physician must undergo rigorous training and pass a written exam (as well as an oral exam in some instances) that’s overseen by a doctor already certified in the specialty in question.

While board certification is not a requirement, choosing a Board Certified podiatrist ensures you’re getting care from someone with extensive knowledge of and training in podiatry. After med school and residency, I worked hard to become Board Certified, not just for the achievement itself but because it made me better equipped to give my patients the customized care and innovative treatment options they deserve.
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist

2. **Do They Fully Understand Your Needs?**

Your consultation should be a personalized session during which time the doctor gets a thorough look at your symptoms, listens to your concerns, and forms a plan of action based not just on their own expertise but your preferences as well. The key word is “listen” – if a doctor is not willing to let you have the floor, how can they possibly understand what it is that you, as an individual, need?

At Weil Podiatry of New York, all of our specialists consider themselves partners in podiatry. We will discuss treatment options with you, listen to your concerns, and guide you towards treatment that is the best fit for you. We understand that your feet are your foundation and we want to provide you with the best care available for you and your lifestyle.
Do They Take a Consultative Approach?

I’ve mentioned how important it is that your doctor listen to your concerns, but what else should a consultation entail?

- The doctor should explain the different options available to you in plain language that you can easily understand.
- There should be plenty of time for you to ask any questions you may have and every question should be answered to your satisfaction.
- Remember, it’s normal to be nervous! If you’re uncomfortable with any aspect of the examination or if you’re having trouble understanding the medical terminology your doctor is using, don’t hesitate to interrupt and ask for clarification. This entire appointment is about you – help us find ways to make you more comfortable so we can ensure you’re leaving feeling more confident than when you came in.

During your consultation at Weil Podiatry of New York, we’ll create a customized treatment plan that accompanies the treatment option you’re most comfortable. We will use the approach we feel is most appropriate from a medical standpoint so you can move forward happy with your choice and confident in the outcome.
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
- X-Ray
- Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) injections
- Digital Orthotic Scanner

By having high-tech diagnostic equipment and treatment options on site, Weil Podiatry of New York 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.
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist

**NUMBER 5**

**Do They See Patients of All Ages?**

Pediatric podiatry is a sub-specialty 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.

At Weil Podiatry of New York, our doctors specialize in treating patients of all ages. We understand that providing early treatment can decrease the chances of developing more serious conditions down the road. Our podiatrists are trained to provide a multitude of services. To see if you or your loved one is a good candidate for podiatry treatment, call 917.809.7705 today!
**NUMBER 6**

**Do They Recommend Treatment Besides Surgery?**

In some instances, surgery is the only way a patient’s pain can be resolved, but 9 times out of 10 there’s a non-surgical approach that could provide a similarly positive outcome. The question is whether your podiatrist is willing to exhaust all available conservative treatment options before turning to surgery or whether their eagerness to get into the operating room could influence their opinion.

At Weil Podiatry of New York, we look for non-invasive ways to support your body’s own capacity to self-heal before we entertain surgery as a last resort. You will have a wide variety of treatment options available to help you with your podiatry goals. Our mission is to make treatment as safe, easy, and comfortable as possible.
Do They Offer Same Day Appointments?

Sometimes your foot pain just can’t wait. 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 urgent matters within 24 hours when the need arises.

As a patient with Weil Podiatry of New York, 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. At Weil Podiatry of New York, your podiatry treatment is our number one priority!
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist

**NUMBER 8**

**Do They Have Experience?**

Most people wouldn’t want to hop on a plane flown by a first-time pilot, and entrusting your well-being to a novice surgeon can be similarly daunting. In addition to questions about a doctor’s education, licensing, and post-graduate training (internships and residency, for example), you’ll want to ask him or her how many surgeries they’ve performed and what their outcome history looks like.

Collectively, the physicians at Weil Podiatry have provided treatment to more than 100,000 patients over the last more than 50 years, addressing everything from general foot wellness to diabetic wound care to reconstructive foot and ankle surgery. It’s an impressive legacy, but more importantly, it’s a track record that you can trust. Our team at Weil Podiatry of New York carries on that legacy with experienced doctors who are experts in their field.
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist

**NUMBER 9**

**Are They Experts in Their Field?**

How is your podiatrist 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? The term “expert” isn’t always easy to define, but if your podiatrist is Board Certified, experienced, and invested in ongoing education, you’re likely in good hands.

At Weil Podiatry of New York, 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. Weil Podiatry of New York 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!
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist

Do They Accept Most Insurances?

Few things can ruin your day faster than showing up to your doctor’s appointment only to discover that their office doesn’t accept your insurance plan. If you are uncertain whether the podiatrist you’re researching is able to accept your insurances, you can always give them a call in advance so you’re prepared or can seek out another podiatrist in your area.

Weil Podiatry of New York accepts most insurance plans, but it’s always a good idea to call ahead for confirmation. Additionally, you can contact your insurance company for an up-to-date list of participating providers. Whether we work with your insurance or not, we will always work with you to help ensure you get the treatment you need. Your feet are just as important to us as they are to you!
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist

**Bonus: Do They Offer Flexible Payment Options?**

When I started this report, I only intended to cover the top 10 things you should know before choosing your podiatrist, but there’s a pretty big question we’ve missed thus far: what happens if you find the perfect physician but he or she isn’t part of your insurance plan?

Fear not – even if Weil Podiatry of New York doesn’t currently accept your insurance, we may still be able to help thanks to our flexible treatment options. No patient should ever have to be in pain because of financial obligation! At Weil Podiatry of New York, we accept all major credit cards and make every effort to ensure the cost of your podiatry care is affordable.
Closing Letter from Dr. Kordai I. DeCoteau

Hi Friend,

Hopefully my report has helped you understand both your rights as a patient and what you should look for in a podiatrist. If you’ve learned a little bit about Weil Podiatry of New York along the way, well then that’s even better!

For more than 50 years, Weil Podiatry has been dedicated to diagnosing and treating the foot and ankle problems that prevent our patients from living the carefree, fun-filled lives they deserve. It’s a commitment to our patients’ health that we take quite seriously, as is evident in the way we approach each new consult. When you come to see us, we’ll present you with the treatment options best suited to your needs and in most cases you’ll see improvement without the need for surgery. However, if we do exhaust non-invasive approaches and decide together that surgery is the next logical step, you can move forward confident in your decision and secure in the knowledge that your doctor truly has your best interests at heart.

When you become part of the Weil Podiatry of New York family, you’re not just getting a doctor, you’re getting the decades of experience, innovation, and dedication to patient care that epitomizes a long-lasting and well-respected practice. Personally, I work hard to not only live up to the reputation of my colleagues but to continue building our connection to the community – and to each individual patient - through my own patient-first approach to medicine.

The fact that you’ve already read this far shows how dedicated you are to living a happy, healthier life. Why not give us a call and see how Weil Podiatry of New York can help you take the next step – pain free?

With best wishes for a healthy life and happy feet,

Dr. Kordai DeCoteau
Top 10 Things to Know Before Choosing Your Podiatrist