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To our patients:

I would like to thank you for choosing us to take care of your podiatric concerns.

This letter is to inform you that if you have **Medicare** and are a **Diabetic**, whether insulin dependent, taking pills, or are diet-controlled, **you may be eligible for a pair of “Diabetic” shoes** sponsored by a program **through Medicare**. It is called the Medicare Therapeutic Shoe Program. Your Primary Care Physician may or may not be aware of this program, so please feel free to discuss this with him or her.

Those of you who are Diabetic you have most likely been made aware of the fact that **you are at a high risk for severe foot disorders**. **Two** of the most devastating **complications** are **neuropathy** (a loss of sensitivity of the feet) and **Peripheral Vascular Disease** (poor circulation). Together these increase the risk for skin breakdown, foot infections, ulcerations and even amputations. As a matter of fact, Diabetes complications are the main cause for toe, foot and/ or leg amputations. Trust me, in the past few years I've performed enough amputations that will last a lifetime.

Studies show that **proper footwear**, consisting of well-fitted shoes with sufficient width and depth, along with protective molded insoles, **can dramatically reduce the risk of ulceration and amputation**. And, as a diabetic you may be eligible to receive one pair per calendar year depending on certain conditions, such as the neuropathy and poor circulation, amongst others. These are not “free” and just because you have Diabetes you are not necessarily entitled to them. A Podiatrist is the only one who can properly evaluate, fit and order the correct shoe for you specific to your podiatric problems.

Some of the conditions are listed below:

Peripheral neuropathy (a loss of feeling or an increased sensitivity)
Poor circulation
A history of ulcerations
Painful corns/ calluses (pre-ulcerative)
Foot deformities- such as bunions, hammertoes, flat or wide feet
History of toe or foot amputation(s)

Please contact the office to set up an appointment to be evaluated.

James J. DeLorenzo, DPM