

The American Osteopathic Association

Osteopathic Style Guide

Osteopathic physician (DO) describes a **physician who trained in the United States and can prescribe medicine and practice in all specialty areas including surgery**. *Osteopathic physician* should be used in all written and verbal communications instead of *osteopath*. *Osteopath* should only be used to describe a health care provider trained **outside of the United States**.

Osteopathic medicine is preferred over *osteopathy* when referring to medicine practiced by osteopathic physicians **trained in the United States**.

Osteopathy should only be used when referring to the occupation of non-physician osteopaths or **those trained outside of the United States**.

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine is the proper name for the **degree** granted by osteopathic medical schools in the United States and is represented by the acronym *DO*. **Do not use *Doctor of Osteopathy***, which is an outdated term for the degree. *DO* also may be used in place of *osteopathic physician*.

How to Use the DO Designation

Use the DO designation when referring to an osteopathic physician in the first reference:

Jane M. Jones, DO

State a DO's specialty as:

Dr. Jane M. Jones, an osteopathic radiologist

Dr. James A. Rodriguez, an osteopathic pediatrician

Hold more than one professional degree? Use:

Jane M. Jones, DO, PhD

James A. Rodriguez, DO, MPH

Utilize the terms **family practice** and **family physician** instead of general practice and general practitioner.

How to Refer to Osteopathic Medical Schools

Refer to osteopathic medical schools with their osteopathic identification:

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine