



The National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists

Standards of Practice For the Orthopaedic Technologist – Certified (OTC®)

Disclaimer:

The intent of these Standards of Practice is to provide a summary of the duties and responsibilities that may be performed by the Orthopaedic Technologist-Certified (OTC®). It is not intended to be a complete text of all job related duties, responsibilities, limitations, or skills that an Orthopaedic Technologist-Certified (OTC®) may be required to perform.

Definition:

The Orthopaedic Technologist - Certified is specially trained as an extension of recognized physicians that are involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients and assists in the treatment of the orthopaedic patient.

The Orthopaedic Technologist - Certified are those individuals that have demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed to work as an Orthopaedic Technologist and who have passed the National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologist Certification Examination. The Orthopaedic Technologist - Certified maintains certification by complying with the rules and policies of the NBCOT. The Orthopaedic Technologists-Certified may use the acronym OTC®.

Standards:

The standards are not intended as a complete list of abilities, but are designed to guide the OTC in assisting the Physician that is involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients in assessment of signs, symptoms, analysis, treatment and the care of the orthopaedic patient. Passage of the NBCOT Certification Examination signifies an entry level of knowledge of the following categories in the specialty of Orthopaedic Technology.

- Assessment
- Casting, Splinting and Orthopaedic Appliances
- Traction
- Surgery

Functions and Responsibilities:

The OTC shall practice in accordance with any existing state rules or regulations.

1. The OTC shall function under the supervision of the Physician that is involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients. Supervision shall be continuous but shall not be construed as necessarily requiring the physical presence of the supervising physician at the time and place where such services are performed.
2. The OTC shall function as a part of the orthopaedic team in the care and management of the orthopaedic patient.

3. The OTC shall be responsible for the accurate recording and reporting of facts, including evaluation and treatment of the orthopaedic patient within the patients chart using written or EMR entries.
 - A. Ability to articulate descriptions of orthopaedic conditions based on the understanding of anatomical structures and their relationship with one another.
 - B. Ability to recognize most fractures and dislocations on X-ray films.

4. The OTC may assist with patient education involving the care and plan of treatment of the orthopaedic patient.

5. The OTC may assist with application and execution of orthopaedic procedures and services and execute legal orders of the supervising Physician concerning the care of the orthopaedic patient.

6. The OTC may render follow up care and services commensurate with education and experience.

7. The OTC may perform the following duties after proficiency has been demonstrated and in accordance with established policies and procedures.
 - a. In the event of emergency situations, administration of all recognized first aid procedures.
 - b. Performance of history and physical assessment of the orthopaedic patient.
 - c. Assist with aspirations and prepare injections.
 - d. Application and removal of all types of casts, splints, immobilization devices and traction.
 - e. Assist with wound closure (sutures, staples, etc.).
 - f. Removal of wound closure materials (sutures, staples, etc.)
 - g. Assist with the reduction of fractures and dislocations.
 - h. Assist with and perform the removal of orthopaedic hardware.
 - i. Ability to supervise and train other certified and non-certified Orthopaedic Technologists.
 - j. Application and use of orthopaedic equipment and supplies
 - k. Maintenance and ordering of orthopaedic equipment and supplies
 - l. Implementation of cost containment measures.

8. The OTC may perform the following surgical responsibilities.
 - a. Position, prep and drape patients by using accepted practices and techniques in order to prepare the patient for surgery.

- b. Assist the surgeon as first or second assistant by using accepted surgical practices and techniques.
- c. Assist the surgeon during reductions by supplying and applying the appropriate materials.
- d. Apply and manage post-operative dressings on wounds following aseptic techniques.

9. Hospital Orthopaedic Technologists

1. Fabricate, adjust and remove orthopaedic devices.
2. Apply mobilization and immobilization devices.
3. Apply skin, skeletal and manual traction.
4. Make rounds on all orthopaedic patients
5. Serve as technical advisor to the hospital personnel in matters pertaining to orthopaedic devices and equipment.
6. Assist orthopaedic surgeons in operating room as first and second assistants.
7. Represent the Orthopaedic Technologists at medical, nursing and administrative meetings.
8. Record in patient's chart, condition, progress, assessment and treatment for review by the Orthopaedic Surgeon.
9. Adhere to and implement established hospital policies and procedures of the work place.

10. Clinic/Office Technologists

1. Order orthopaedic equipment and supplies
2. Take necessary measurements (i.e. grip strength, leg lengths).
3. Remove sutures, staples, Steinman pins and K-wires
4. Change dressing and care for wounds.
5. Apply, adjust and remove casts.
6. Assist with aspirations and prepare injections.
7. Record patient's blood pressure, pulse and weight.
8. Phone and chart medication ordered by the physician.
9. Assist Orthopaedic Surgeon in reduction of fractures.
10. Review standard admitting and pre-op instructions for patients having surgery.
11. Assist in making follow-up appointments and consultation appointments with other specialists for patients.
12. Measure and fit patients for braces and other orthopaedic devices.
13. Instruct patient in pre and post-operative care.
14. Instruct patient in proper care of cast and splints.
15. Clean and stock patient exam and treatment rooms.
16. Adhere to established clinic/office policy and procedure directives.

D. Health Care Agency/ Independent Contractor

1. Perform all of the duties of a hospital-based Orthopaedic Technologist.
2. Perform all of the duties of a clinic/office-based Orthopaedic Technologist.
3. Serve as a technical expert to hospitals, orthopaedic surgeons and other Orthopaedic Technologists in matters pertaining to orthopaedic devices and techniques.
4. Set up and fit patients at home with orthopaedic devices and equipment.
5. Instruct others in the practice of orthopaedic technology.
6. Educate the public about the role of an Orthopaedic Technologist on a team of health care providers.

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