OPC SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Individual Role Description

- Certified Orthotists CO(c) & Certified Prosthetists CP(c)
- Orthotic or Prosthetic Resident
- Registered Orthotic Technicians RTO(c) & Registered Prosthetics Technicians RTP(c)
- Orthotic or Prosthetic Intern

Certified Orthotist CO(c) and Certified Prosthetist CP(c)

Certified Orthotists CO(c) and Certified Prosthetists CP(c) are healthcare professionals that are specifically educated and clinically trained to manage comprehensive orthotic and/or prosthetic patient care. This includes patient assessment, formulation of the treatment plan, implementation of the treatment plan, follow-up and sound practice management.

Orthotic care may include, but is not limited to; patient evaluation, orthosis design, fabrication, fitting and modification to treat a musculoskeletal disorder or acquired condition. This may include the provision of partial foot prostheses for trans-metatarsal and more distal lower limb amputations

Prosthetic care may include, but is not limited to; patient evaluation, prosthesis design, fabrication, fitting and modification to treat partial or total limb loss for purposes of restoring physiological function and/or cosmesis.

Additionally, Certified Orthotists CO(c) and Certified Prosthetists CP(c) are:

- Bound by the OPC Canons of Ethical Conduct, which is enforced by a Professional Practice Committee.
- Obligated to support and conform to professional responsibilities that promote and assure the overall welfare of the patient and the integrity of the profession.
- Required to achieve a minimum number of continuing education credits to maintain certification.

Orthotic and/or Prosthetic Resident

Under the close clinical supervision of an OPC certified practitioner in good standing and in the appropriate discipline; an orthotic or prosthetic resident:

- Is competent to perform clinical assessment and patient management tasks within their registered discipline.
- Can independently carry out practice management and technical implementation activities and services.
- Is obligated to support and conform to professional responsibilities, which promote and assure the overall welfare of the patient and integrity of the profession.
- Is bound by the OPC Canons of Ethical Conduct, which is enforced by the Professional Practice Committee.

Registered Orthotic Technician RTO(c) and Registered Prosthetic Technician RTP(c) and Interns

The OPC Registered Technician fabricates, repairs and maintains orthoses and/or prostheses. The Registered Technician is proficient with current fabricating techniques, familiar with the properties of a variety of materials and skilled in the use of appropriate equipment. A Registered Technician is trained and qualified to assist a certified or resident orthotic or prosthetic practitioner by providing technical support including but not limited to technical assessment and management.

Registered Technicians:

- May not use their credentials as independent providers of patient care.
- Should not perform clinical tasks such as shape capture, positive mold modifications, fitting or evaluation of clinical function of a particular device. Any patient contact will be for the purpose of assisting the certified or resident practitioner in the technical aspects of the manufacture of a particular orthotic or prosthetic device.
- Are bound by the OPC Canons of Ethical Conduct, which is enforced by the Professional Practice Committee.
- Are obligated to support and conform to professional responsibilities that promote and assure the overall welfare of the patient and integrity of the profession.
- Are required to achieve a minimum number of continuing education credits to maintain their registration.

Orthotic or Prosthetic Interns:

Are bound by the same rules and regulations as Registered Technicians but perform their duties under the close supervision of an OPC Registered or Certified practitioner in good standing and in the appropriate discipline.

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Domains and Tasks of Certified Practitioners, Registered Technicians, Residents and Interns

1. Patient Evaluation - Assess and evaluate patient by collecting patient-specific characteristics that will be used to determine appropriate prosthetic/orthotic treatment.

- Obtain consent to treatment
- Conduct patient interview by taking a comprehensive patient history, including but not limited to medical history (for example, fall history and risk, previous/current treatment and surgeries, allergies to materials, current medication), diagnosis and pathology, signs and symptoms, previous/current use of a prosthesis/orthosis, work history, activities, demographic characteristics, social history and supports (for example, family/friends, workplace), cognitive capacity
- Review professional reports such as patient charts, documented reports, test results, treatments, referrals and ongoing treatment plans of other health care professionals
- Conduct physical examination by performing a diagnosis-specific functional clinical and cognitive ability examination that includes manual muscle testing, evaluation of sensory function, range of motion, joint stability, and skin integrity
- Perform static evaluation (for example, postural assessment, weight/non-weight bearing) with and without prosthesis/orthosis
- Perform dynamic evaluation (for example, functional analysis, and gait analysis) with and without prosthesis/orthosis
- Review patient goals and expectations
- Identify and administer outcome measurement tools (for example, pain scale, timed walk test, amputee mobility predictor [AMP]) to determine baseline
- Obtain information regarding patient from other health care professionals
- Obtain information regarding funding sources
- Document patient evaluation

2. Treatment Planning: Analyze, evaluate and integrate information gathered in Patient Evaluation. Using this information, develop prosthetic/orthotic treatment which may include the provision of a new prosthesis/orthosis, restoration/improvement of function in current prosthesis/orthosis, or referral to other health care professionals.

- Refer patient, if appropriate, to other health care professionals for intervention beyond prosthetic/orthotic scope of practice
- Research treatment options, including obtaining evidence from literature to achieve treatment goals
- Research manufacturer's specifications; and materials, components, design, and fabrication techniques
- Review treatment options with patient, including potential trial of components/prostheses/orthoses
- Collaborate with other health care professionals regarding treatment options

- Develop a treatment plan, including prosthetic/orthotic treatment, patient education, and continuing and/or coordinated care, based on patient evaluation, needs, and treatment goals
- Communicate treatment plan to patient and ensure patient understands his or her responsibilities related to the treatment plan
- Ensure that patient and payors are informed of their financial responsibilities
- Contact funding agencies for pre-approval, and provide letters/documentation of medical necessity when required
- Document treatment plan

3. Treatment Implementation and Evaluation Using relevant clinical and technical skills, provide the patient with the prosthetic/orthotic treatment that may include the provision of a new prosthesis/orthosis, restoration/improvement of function in current prosthesis/orthosis, or referral to other health care professionals. Provide education to patient.

- Provide patient with preparatory care for prosthetic/orthotic treatment (for example, compression garment, serial casting)
- Select appropriate materials/techniques in order to perform shape capture (cast, impression, measure, trace, digitize, scan) of residual limb/body segment and/or required measurements
- Prepare patient for procedure required to perform shape capture and/or required measurements
- Perform shape capture and/or required measurements of residual limb/body segment
- Perform shape capture and/or required measurements from existing prosthesis/orthosis
- Create positive anatomical model from shape capture (for example, pour/fill cast, carve positive)
- Modify (rectify) anatomical model or image
- Fabricate/assemble a prosthesis/orthosis to prepare for initial or diagnostic evaluation (fitting)
- Ensure that materials, design, and components are used as specified in the treatment plan
- Assess prosthesis/orthosis for structural integrity prior to patient diagnostic evaluation (fitting)
- Ensure that manufacturers' guidelines and all instructions for use have been followed prior to patient diagnostic evaluation (fitting) (for example, torque values, patient weight limits)
- Assess/align prosthesis/orthosis for accuracy in sagittal, transverse, and coronal planes (bench alignment)
- Perform static and dynamic alignment of prosthesis/orthosis with patient
- Assess fit, function, control, and support of prosthesis/orthosis (for example, suspension, volume, pressure distribution, force control system)
- After assuring that prosthesis/orthosis is structurally sound, arrange for a trial period with prosthesis/orthosis if required
- Complete fabrication process after achieving optimal fit and function of prosthesis/orthosis (for example, convert test socket to definitive prosthesis/orthosis, cosmetic finishing, and anatomical shaping)
- Re-assess prosthesis/orthosis for structural safety and integrity prior to patient use
- Administer outcome measurement tools and compare to baseline

- Educate patient about the use and maintenance of the prosthesis/orthosis (for example, wearing schedules, donning/doffing, other instructions)
- Refer patient to appropriate health care professionals for necessary ancillary care
- Educate and work with other health care professionals with regard to patient treatment
- Document treatment implementation
- Finalize financial aspects of treatment implementation

4. Ongoing Treatment and Re-evaluation Review prosthetic/orthotic treatment with patient subsequent to original care. Provide additional treatment to adjust, optimize or restore function of the prosthesis/orthosis, and re-educate patient as necessary. Refer to or consult with other health care professionals, as necessary.

- Obtain feedback from patient to evaluate outcome (for example, wear schedule/tolerance, comfort, perceived benefits and/or detriments, ability to don and doff, proper usage and function, overall satisfaction)
- Re-assess patient and note any changes from previous evaluation(s)
- Assess prosthesis/orthosis with regard to strategic contact and physical presentation
- (For example, multiple force systems, total contact, trim lines, static/dynamic alignment) to determine need for changes relative to treatment goals
- Evaluate prosthesis/orthosis for structural changes (for example, component or material failure, joint mal-alignment, and change in alignment)
- Re-administer outcome measurement tools to assess patient's achievement of treatment goals
- Formulate and discuss with the patient and payors the ongoing treatment plan to modify or replace prosthesis/orthosis
- Modify prosthesis/orthosis, component parts, and/or interface elements
- Repair, restore, and/or refurbish prosthesis/orthosis, component parts, and/or interface elements
- Replace prosthesis/orthosis, component parts, and/or interface elements
- Assess prosthesis/orthosis for structural safety and integrity following modification, repair, or replacement
- Evaluate modified prosthesis/orthosis, including static and dynamic evaluation
- Reassess patient knowledge on use of prosthesis/orthosis
- Communicate ongoing treatment and outcomes with all key stakeholders
- Ensure that patient and payors are informed of their financial responsibilities and options regarding modification, repair or replacement of prosthesis/orthosis
- Document treatment
- Document outcomes

5. Professional Practice Practice in accordance with professional standards and legal requirements; participate in personal and professional development through continuing education, training, research, and organizational affiliations; and provide training and education to others.

- Abide by OPC Character and Fitness Rules and Canons of Ethical Conduct
- Establish procedures for patient care in compliance with provincial, territorial, and national legal requirements (for example, protection of personal health information, patient and workplace safety)
- Develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures with respect to human resources, physical environment, business and financial practices, and organizational management
- Participate in personal professional development (for example, participate in continuing education, attend/ present at conferences)
- Contribute to the profession (for example, volunteer in professional associations, committees, and regulatory agencies)
- Provide education and training for prosthetic and orthotic practitioners, other health care professionals, technicians, assistants, office staff, and funding agencies
- Participate in education of Residents and Interns
- Participate in education of students (both prosthetic and orthotic, as well as others)
- Participate in OPC Accredited prosthetic and/or orthotic technical or clinical education programs
- Conduct or participate in research, product development, clinical trials, and outcome studies
- Collaborate with health care professionals and other stakeholders
- Participate in the development, implementation, and monitoring of public policy regarding prosthetics/orthotics
- Serve as an expert resource (for example, lifetime cost of treatment, future cost of care, expert witness)
- Participate in/with consumer organizations and non-governmental organizations in order to promote competency and enhancement of prosthetic/orthotic profession

In order to relate the various caregivers to the supervisory role of the certified practitioner, the following definitions were established:

Supervisor:
The Certified Prosthetist CP(c) or Certified Orthotist CO(c) in good standing is solely responsible for the delivery of appropriate, effective, ethical and safe orthotic and/or prosthetic patient care. The supervisor may only oversee patient care services in the discipline(s) they are credentialed and within OPC scope of practice.

Independent:
The caregiver is qualified to provide independent, unsupervised, direct patient care as well as confer or consult with colleagues, physicians or other allied health professionals in providing patient care

Direct Supervision:

The caregiver (Resident) is qualified to provide patient care under the guidance of the clinical supervisor in good standing. The supervisor must personally review the assessment and care rendered before any treatment is to proceed. The supervisor must be available for consultation throughout the delivery of care.

Table 1 below represents the five domains listed within the Scope of Practice. Indicated for each domain is the level of supervision required for the three levels of prosthetic and orthotic care providers. These are minimum levels of supervision recognized by OPC for purposes of establishing relationships between orthotic and prosthetic patient caregivers.

Organizations and/or certified practitioners may establish, at their discretion, more rigorous levels of supervision than identified by OPC.
(Table 1)

Category	Certified Practitioner	Residents	Registered Technician	Interns
1. Patient Evaluation	Independent	Direct	Direct	Direct
2. Treatment Planning	Independent	Direct	Direct	Direct
3. Treatment Implementation and Evaluation	Independent	Direct	Direct	Direct
4. Ongoing Treatment and Re-Evaluation	Independent	Direct	Direct	Direct
5. Professional Practice	Independent	Independent	Independent	Independent

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Educational Requirements for OPC Practitioners

The current educational requirements including hours for all categories (including Certifees, Foreign Trained, Technicians method I and II, 2nd disciplines, etc.) can be found at www.opcanada.ca or by contacting the OPC National Office at info@opcanada.ca.

Certified Professionals

Education

- A Bachelors degree, in an appropriate program, is required for acceptance into an OPC Accredited Clinical Orthotic and Prosthetic School Program.
- Applicant must complete the two-year program at one of the OPC Accredited Clinical Orthotic and Prosthetic Schools.
- Foreign trained applicants must complete the OPC Entrance-to-Residency Examination if their education qualifications are deemed equivalent to the current standards.

Experience

- Candidates must complete a 3450-hour Residency in the appropriate discipline while employed in an appropriate orthotic or prosthetic facility under the supervision of an on-site certified professional.

Examinations

- Residents must obtain a minimum 70% grade on the CBCPO written Certification Examination.
- Only after successful completion of the written examination, candidates must successfully challenge (min 70% grade) the Oral and Practical Certification Examinations to obtain certification.
- Residents must challenge and successfully complete Comprehensive Written Examinations in the specific discipline (Certified Orthotist or Certified Prosthetist)
- After successful completion of the Comprehensive Written Examinations, the Candidate must challenge and successfully complete Practical Examinations

Registered Technicians

Method I

Education

- Must complete an OPC Accredited Technical Orthotic and Prosthetic School Program

Experience

- Candidates must complete a 3450-hour internship in the appropriate discipline while employed in an appropriate orthotic or prosthetic facility under the supervision of an on-site certified or registered professional.

Examinations

- Interns must obtain a minimum 70% grade on the written Registration Examination.
- Candidates must successfully challenge (min 70% grade) the Practical Registration Examination to obtain status as a Registered Technician.
- Interns must challenge and successfully complete Comprehensive Written Examinations in the specific discipline (Certified Orthotist or Certified Prosthetist)
- After successful completion of the Comprehensive Written Examinations, the Candidate must challenge and successfully complete Practical Examinations

Method II

Experience

- Candidates must complete a 6900-hour internship in the appropriate discipline while employed in an appropriate orthotic or prosthetic facility under the supervision of an on-site certified or registered professional.

Examinations

- Interns must obtain a minimum 70% grade on the written Registration Examination.
- Candidates must successfully challenge (min 70% grade) the Practical Registration Examination to obtain status as a Registered Technician.
- Interns must challenge and successfully complete Comprehensive Written Examinations in the specific discipline (Certified Orthotist or Certified Prosthetist)
- After successful completion of the Comprehensive Written Examinations, the Candidate must challenge and successfully complete Practical Examinations

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Glossary of Terms

Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists (CBCPO)
CBCPO is the certification body and is an independent Board responsible for implementing and managing the certification and registration processes. Successful candidates are considered CBCPO Certified/Registered through Orthotics Prosthetics Canada (OPC). CBCPO is an arm's length credentialing body that manages the certification and registration of clinicians and technicians and awards the designations of:

- Certified Orthotist CO(c);
- Certified Prosthetist CP(c);
- Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist CPO(c);
- Registered Technician Orthotics RTO(c);
- Registered Technician Prosthetics RTP(c); and,
- Registered Technician Prosthetics and Orthotics RTPO(c)

Certified Orthotist CO(c)
Is a healthcare professional that is highly educated and clinically trained to manage comprehensive orthotic patient care. They work closely with a team of medical professionals that may include a physician, surgeon and physical and occupational therapist to ensure the best results for each individual. This includes patient assessment, technical design and fabrication, formulation of the treatment plan, implementation of the treatment plan, follow up and practice management. They are subject matter experts in all areas of orthotic treatment. (See www.opcanada.ca "*About Certified Orthotists – CO(c)*")

Certified Prosthetist CP(c)
Is a healthcare professional that is highly educated and clinically trained to manage comprehensive prosthetic patient care. They work closely with a team of medical professionals that may include a physician, surgeon and physical and occupational therapist to ensure the best results for each individual. This includes patient assessment, technical design and fabrication, formulation of the treatment plan, implementation of the treatment plan, follow up and practice management. They are subject matter experts in all areas of prosthetic treatment. (See www.opcanada.ca "*About Certified Prosthetists – CP(c)*")

Custom Fabricated Devices
An orthosis or prosthesis fabricated from comprehensive measurements and/or a mold of the patient model for use by a patient in accordance with a prescription and which requires clinical and technical assessment in its design, fabrication and fitting.

Custom Fitted Device
A prefabricated orthosis that is manufactured in quantity without a specific patient in mind. The device may be supplied as separate prefabricated components that require some assembly and/or fitting and adjustment. These orthoses must be trimmed, bent, molded or otherwise modified for use by a specific patient.

Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE)
All credentialed professionals are required to keep their skills and knowledge current by earning a minimum number of mandatory continuing education credits. Information regarding the MCE program can be located here: http://www.opcanada.ca/english/learning-centre/mandatory-continuing-education-program-mces.html or by contacting the OPC National Office at info@opcanada.ca

Member in Good Standing
To maintain membership in good standing, the member must meet all mandatory continuing educational requirements, pay all professional fees and assessments when they fall due and comply with all OPC rules and regulations.

Orthotics Prosthetics Canada (OPC)
OPC is the national representative body for the orthotic and prosthetic profession. OPC establishes and promotes the highest standards of organizational and clinical performance in the delivery of orthotic and prosthetic care.

OPC Accredited Clinical Orthotic and Prosthetic School Programs
There are currently two accredited Clinical O&P school programs:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) – *Prosthetics and Orthotics Program*
- George Brown College (GBC) - *Clinical Methods in Orthotics and Prosthetics Program*

OPC Accredited Technical Orthotic and Prosthetic School Program
There is currently one accredited Technical O&P school program:

- George Brown College (GBC) - *Orthotic / Prosthetic Technical Program*

OPC Standards and Ethics Committee
The OPC Standards and Ethics Committee is a Standing Committee of OPC. As such it gets its authority from, and is accountable to, the OPC Board of Directors. The committee is responsible for the developing and maintaining standards of professional practice, a professional canons of ethics, and providing a mechanism to discipline members who breach them.

OPC Professional Practice Committee
The Professional Practice Committee is a subcommittee of the Standards and Ethics Committee. As such, it gets its authority from, and is accountable to the Standards and Ethics Committee. The committee is solely responsible for ensuring that the OPC's professional standards and ethics are adhered to by OPC members, and providing a mechanism to discipline members who breach them. The framework of the committee provides an independent body that investigates, adjudicates and renders decisions including the application of sanctions as may be required.

OPC Canons of Ethical Conduct
All certified and registered professionals as well as those residents and interns that are training to become certified and registered respectively, are bound to the **OPC Canons of Ethical Conduct**. The Canons of Ethical Conduct are the foundation for the regulatory role OPC plays within the profession. Recognizing the significant role the orthotic and/or prosthetic professional plays in the physical and emotional welfare of the patient, the canons evolved from the Code of Ethics and from the policies of Orthotics Prosthetics Canada. Its purpose is to convey the philosophy and basic principle that the welfare of the patient shall come first and to encourage and promote the highest standard of professionalism and ethical conduct.

Orthosis (or Brace)
A custom designed, custom fabricated, custom fitted, prefabricated and or modified device to treat a neuromusculoskeletal disorder or acquired condition. Also referred to commonly as a brace.

Orthotic Intern
Is an individual who has qualified to enter into the OPC Internship program, with the goal to receive the credentials of a Registered Orthotic Technician. The Orthotic Intern works under the close supervision of an OPC Registered Orthotic Technician or an OPC Certified Orthotist in good standing.

Prosthetic Intern
Is an individual who has qualified to enter into the OPC Internship program, with the goal to receive the credentials of a Registered Prosthetic Technician. The Prosthetic Intern works under the close supervision of an OPC Registered Prosthetic Technician or an OPC Certified Prosthetist in good standing.

Prosthesis (or Artificial Limb)
A custom designed, fabricated, fitted and/or modified device to treat partial or complete limb loss for purposes of restoring the physiological function and/or cosmesis. Also referred to commonly as an artificial limb.

Resident Orthotist
Is an individual who has completed an accredited clinical program or the accepted equivalent (e.g. foreign-trained) and has been accepted and entered into the OPC Residency Program to train to earn the credentials as a Certified Orthotist. The resident provides orthotic patient care under the direct clinical supervision of a Certified Orthotist in good standing

Resident Prosthetist
Is an individual who has completed an accredited clinical program or the accepted equivalent (e.g. foreign-trained) and has been accepted and entered into the OPC Residency Program to train to earn the credentials as a Certified Prosthetist. The resident provides prosthetic patient care under the direct clinical supervision of a Certified Prosthetist in good standing.

Residency Program
The OPC Residency Program is a required stage of post-graduate experience to achieve the ability to become certified in orthotics or prosthetics. The Residency is completed under the supervision of a Certified Practitioner in good standing with the Corporation and may take place in a private or public facility. The 3450-hour Residency must be performed in the appropriate discipline while employed as a Resident in an orthotic or prosthetic facility. Hours must be recorded and approved in the manner prescribed by OPC.

Registered Orthotic Technician RTO(c)
This individual provides technical expertise in the design and fabrication of orthoses and the components in such a manner as to provide maximum fit, function, cosmesis, and workmanship. The Registered Technician is proficient with current fabricating techniques, familiar with material properties and skilled in the use of appropriate equipment.

Registered Prosthetic Technician RTP(c)
This individual provides technical experience in the design and fabrication of prostheses and the components in such a manner as to provide maximum fit, function, cosmesis, and workmanship. The Registered Technician is proficient with current fabricating techniques, familiar with material properties and skilled in the use of appropriate equipment.

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Scope of Practice approved by the Orthotics Prosthetics Canada (OPC) Board of Directors 2017-09-22