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Orthotist, BOC-Certified (BOCO) Scope of Practice

I. Definitions

A. Practice of Orthotics

Orthotics is the practice, pursuant to a physician's order, of addressing medical conditions of the lower limbs, upper limbs and spinal anatomical structure. Orthotists evaluate a patient's condition, taking measurements and impressions of the involved body segments. Drawing on wide knowledge of biomechanics, materials and components, they design and fabricate custom orthosis appropriate to the conditions presented. Follow-up appointments are required to evaluate the efficacy of the orthosis; make adjustments/service the devices as necessary and promote patient compliance with the goal of achieving desired outcomes.

B. Orthotist, BOC-Certified

An Orthotist, BOC-Certified is a professional whose competence in orthoses is evaluated and verified by the Board of Certification/ Accreditation, International.

C. Orthotic Devices

"Orthotic Devices/Modalities" include but are not limited to ankle-foot orthosis, knee-ankle-foot orthosis, hip-knee-ankle-foot orthosis, hip orthosis, knee orthosis, cervical orthosis, thoracic and lumbar orthosis, wrist-hand orthosis, shoulder-elbow orthosis and foot orthosis. An orthosis is a custom fabricated or custom fitted medical device designed to provide for the support, alignment, prevention, or correction of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disease, injury or deformity.

II. General Requirements for a Orthotist, BOC-Certified

To become certified as an Orthotist, a candidate must meet initial educational requirements and pass a comprehensive Multiple Choice Exam (MCE), Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE) and Video Practical Examination (VPE) given by the Board of Certification/Accreditation, International (BOC), whose Orthotist certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. Once certified, an Orthotist must meet continuing education and annual renewal requirements to maintain BOC certification. The BOCO must also adhere to a code of ethics designed to ensure a comprehensive scope of professional competence and deportment. BOCO activities must reflect his/her certification(s) and education.

III. Roles of an Orthotist, BOC-Certified

Patient Assessment

Ascertain physician/clinician's diagnosis; gather information; examine patient and evaluate. Determine patient's realistic expectations; consult with clinician as appropriate. A clinician is defined as any healthcare provider who has the legal and/or licensed authority in the state to order or prescribe medical care.

Implementation

Select appropriate orthosis, device(s); create appropriate models; fabricate, measure, assemble and apply orthosis to patient. Modify, adjust and conduct trial fittings; facilitate patient's understanding; and conduct appropriate follow-up. Orthotists are authorized to treat primary diagnoses as provided by the physician/clinician.

Practice Management

Comply with universal precaution procedures, occupational safety and health rules, document all patient matters; communicate with other professionals; maintain a proficient staff and suitable facility; follow a quality assurance plan and operate an orthotic practice in accordance with sound business principles and governmental requirements in order to ensure fairness to patients and other stakeholders.

Professional Development and Responsibility

Adhere to legal and ethical Scope of Practice; participate in continuing education; fulfill civic responsibilities; participate in research as appropriate; educate the public and health professionals on available orthotic services.