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BOC Pedorthist Scope of Practice

I. Definitions

A. Practice of Pedorthics

Pedorthics is the practice, pursuant to a written order/prescription when addressing a medical condition, of evaluating, treatment planning, patient managing, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing, necessary to accomplish the application of a pedorthic device for the prevention or amelioration of painful and/or disabling conditions related to the lower extremities.

B. BOC Pedorthist

A BOC Pedorthist (BOCPD) is a professional whose competence in fitting pedorthics is evaluated and verified by the Board of Certification/Accreditation, International.

C. Pedorthic Devices

“Pedorthic Devices/Modalities” means therapeutic shoes, shoe modifications made for therapeutic purposes, partial foot prostheses, foot orthoses and below the knee pedorthic modalities. Pedorthic devices do not include non-therapeutic, accommodative inlays and non-therapeutic accommodative footwear, regardless of method of manufacture; unmodified, non-therapeutic over-the-counter shoes; or prefabricated unmodified and/or unmodifiable foot care and footwear products. For purposes of this document, “accommodative” means designed with a primary goal of conforming to the individual’s anatomy, and “therapeutic” devices are devices that address a medical condition, while non-therapeutic devices are devices that do not address a medical condition.

II. General Requirements for a BOC Pedorthist

To become certified as a Pedorthist, a candidate must meet initial educational requirements and pass a comprehensive written Multiple Choice Exam (MCE) given by the Board of Certification/Accreditation, International (BOC), whose Pedorthist certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. Once certified, a pedorthist must meet continuing education and annual renewal requirements to maintain pedorthic certification. The BOC Pedorthist must also adhere to a code of ethics designed to ensure a comprehensive scope of professional competence and deportment. The practice of pedorthics by a BOC Pedorthist inherently includes prescriptive and non-prescriptive work because of the universal use of footwear. A written order/prescription is required for any pedorthic device, modification and/or prefabricated below the knee anatomical support addressing a medical condition. A pedorthist’s activities must reflect his/her certification(s) and education. A pedorthist fits, adjusts, modifies, and transfers devices which reflect his/her certification(s).

III. Roles of a BOC Pedorthist

Pedorthic Assessment

Ascertain physician/clinician’s diagnosis; gather information; examine patient’s current footwear and assess patient’s feet; evaluate patient using generally accepted pedorthic methods; 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 pedorthic device(s); create appropriate models; fabricate appropriate foot orthoses, partial foot prostheses and below the knee orthoses. Modify footwear; conduct trial fittings; facilitate patient's understanding; and conduct appropriate follow-up. A pedorthist is authorized to treat primary diagnoses as provided by the physician/clinician to treat medical conditions related to the lower extremity.

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 a pedorthic 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 pedorthic services.