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Owner: Colette Cloonan: MGR PATIENT CARE
Policy Area: Nursing
References: Policy, SRS, Scope of Practice
Applicability: Rees - Sharp

Scope of Practice - Orthopedic Technicians, 30101

I. PURPOSE:

To clarify tasks and responsibilities that Orthopedic Technologist Certified (OTC) are allowed by scope of practice to perform. Certification by the National Association for Orthopedic Technologists (NAOT) is required as well as special competency as required by Sharp Healthcare (SHC).

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Provider** – For the purposes of this policy, a provider can be a Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant.
- B. **Modality of treatment** – A therapeutic method of therapy that involves the physical treatment of a disorder.

III. TEXT:

A. The Orthopedic Technologists I and II responsibility with regards to Scope of Practice:

- Orthopedic Technicians (OTC) are responsible for knowing their legal scope of practice as defined by the NAOT, the National Board of Certification for Ortho Techs and as delineated in this policy.
- The OTC will have an understanding of those aspects of application, removal and adjustment of casts, braces, splints, traction and improvised setups that are allowed by the OTC scope of practice.
- The OTC will maintain Certification by the National Association of Orthopedic Technologists.
- A physician/provider order is required for all treatment modalities to be performed by an OTC.

B. Skills - The following skills are exercised independently however, only under a supervising physician's order:

- Identifies the needs of the patient and/or family based on history, signs and symptoms and/or changes in the patient's condition and advises the physician/provider.
- Demonstrates a good working clinical knowledge of plaster and synthetic cast application and understands the untoward effects of this form of treatment.
- Instructs the patient and/or family in cast care to include warning signs.
- Demonstrates proficiency in traction principles and application techniques and prepares or sets up

specific types of traction as ordered by the physician/provider.

- Assesses patients in traction, detects deficiencies in the apparatus and makes adjustments as necessary.
- Demonstrates knowledge of medical and surgical asepsis and prepares for surgical procedures.
- Demonstrates familiarity with routine office and departmental procedures and performs certain basic nursing functions.
- Applies all types of prefabricated soft goods, i.e., slings, collars, and immobilizers as ordered by the physician/provider.
- Applies and removes all types of extremity casts and variations, i.e. short and long arm casts, short and long leg casts, cylinder casts, hinge knee and elbow casts as ordered by the physician/provider.
- Provides maintenance of casts and determines needs for repair and reinforcement.
- Maintains departmental supplies and stock as needed.
- Fits and/or adjusts orthopedic inserts and supports.
- Provides simple diabetic foot and wound care as directed by the physician/provider.
- Assess and report wound length, width, depth and drainage type.
- Applies Unna Boots as ordered by the physician/provider (see [Unna Boot Application, 30103.01](#)).
- Applies specialty casts as ordered by the physician/provider.
- Trims toenails with physician/provider present in office and as directed.
- Trims corns and/or provides soft tissue care as directed by physician/provider.
- Reads back verbal orders to the ordering orthopedic physician/provider.
- Educates patients regarding follow-up instructions.
- Documents all care and patient response in the patients chart or Electronic Health Record.

C. Skills – The following skills may be performed while assisting a physician/provider and/or with direct physician/provider observation:

1. Orthopedic Technician I:

- Fits braces and prosthetics and performs minor adjustments and repairs. Fabricates splints for various conditions under direction of the orthopedic surgeon.
- Assists the physician in application of special casts, i.e., club foot casts, body casts, spicas.
- Assists the orthopedic surgeon in office and E.R. procedures, as in reduction of fractures and dislocations, minor surgery, pin removals, cast wedging.
- Assists with minor procedures

2. Orthopedic Technician II - can perform all the skills of an Orthopedic Technician I plus the following:

- Demonstrates the ability to perform as first or second assistant to the orthopedic surgeon in the operating suite.
- May function as primary assist in the Operating Room for orthopedic procedures.

D. Activities not allowed by the OTC

- Open or close a case for the operating physician.
- Initiate any modality of treatment without direction from a physician/provider.

IV. PROCEDURE:

None

V. REFERENCES:

- A. National Association of Orthopedic Technologists
- B. Orthopedic Department at Sharp Rees-Stealy

VI. ORIGINATOR:

- A. Orthopedics Podiatry

VII. LEGAL REFERENCES:

- A. National Association Of Orthopedic Technologists (NAOT)

VIII. CROSS REFERENCES:

- A. [Unna Boot Application, 30103.01](#)

IX. ATTACHMENTS:

- A. None

X. APPROVALS:

A. Ongoing

- A. SRS Policy & Procedure Committee: 1/08, 5/20
- B. SRS Nursing Policy and Procedure Committee: 4/11, 6/14, 4/17, 5/20
- C. SRS Orthopedic Division Head: 6/11, 5/20

B. Historic

- A. Patient Care Leadership Team (PCLT): 10/07, 6/14, 4/17
- B. SRS Steering Committee: 11/07

XI. REPLACES:

None

XII. HISTORY:

System #30101; originally dated 01/08
Reviewed/Revised: 07/11; 08/14; 04/17;

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Site Admin	Karen Whitten: POLICY & PROCEDURE COORD	5/29/2020
Regulatory	Stormie Westendorf: REGULATORY COMP COORD	5/29/2020
Quality	Trina Souza: DIR AMBULATORY CARE SVCS-SRS	5/5/2020
Editor	Colette Cloonan: MGR PATIENT CARE	4/24/2020
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Applicability

Sharp HealthCare, Sharp Rees Stealy

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