

Scope of Practice Registered Orthopedic Technologist

Orthopedic Technologists are medically trained individuals who work under the direction of orthopedic surgeons and/or in collaboration with other members of the health care team of professionals. They provide care to clients with orthopedic problems through the application, adjustment and removal of a variety of casts, splints, braces and traction fittings. Orthopedic technologists perform casting services in hospitals, clinics and private orthopedic practices. The duties of orthopedic technologists vary from one place of employment to another and may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- dressing removal - assess the condition of wounds prior to cast applications. Consult with physicians for further orders when problems are identified. Debride wounds as directed
- cast application - (including specialized casts, fracture braces, body casts, Halo body casts) using plaster or synthetic materials. This involves adjusting, removing, repairing, bivalving, wedging and windowing of casts
- measure and fit patients for orthopedic braces, devices and ambulatory aids. Instruct patients regarding care and proper use. Assist in the application, maintenance and adjustment of traction (skin, skeletal and manual). This includes patient education of traction therapy.
- remove sutures, staples and pins related to external fixation
- prepare injectable medications as per physician orders
- fabricate and apply splints and bandages (ie., finger splints, velpeau bandages, pressure dressings, humeral splints, knee splints, etc.)
- instruct patient/family in the care of the cast, splint or brace as well as skin care. Reinforce the teaching of the medical information given by the physician regarding the specific injury, treatment plan and anticipated results
- order and maintain equipment. Manage orthopedic supplies
- collaborate with other health care professionals such as physicians, nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, as required
- interact with other departments (electronic health records, radiology, service coordination) to obtain the resources needed to assist in patient care
- establish effective helping relationships with patient and family
- maintain patient dignity and confidentiality
- provide on the job instruction and demonstration of casting techniques to other health professionals (medical students, interns, residents) as requested
- maintain accurate notes and records
- participate in ongoing education and development