



Prosthetist, BOC-Certified Scope of Practice

I. Definitions

A. Practice of Prosthetics

Prosthetics is the practice, pursuant to a physician's order, of addressing medical deficiencies of the lower limbs, upper limbs, and other anatomical structures. A prosthetist evaluates a patient's condition, taking measurements and impressions of the involved body segments. Drawing on wide knowledge of biomechanics, materials, components, and impression techniques, they design and fabricate custom prostheses appropriate to the conditions presented. Follow-up appointments are required to evaluate the efficacy of the prostheses; make adjustments/modifications and service the device as necessary; and promote patient compliance with the goal of achieving desired outcomes.

B. Prosthetist, BOC Certified

A Prosthetist, BOC-Certified is a professional whose competence in prostheses is evaluated and verified by the Board of Certification/ Accreditation.

C. Prosthetic Devices

"Prosthetic Devices/Modalities" include but are not limited to wrist disarticulation prosthesis, below elbow prosthesis, above elbow prosthesis, shoulder prosthesis, partial foot prosthesis, symes prosthesis, below knee prosthesis, above knee prosthesis, and hip disarticulation prosthesis. Prostheses are custom-fabricated or fitted medical devices that are not surgically implanted and are used to replace a missing limb, appendage, or other external human part, including an artificial limb, hand, or foot.

II. General Requirements for a Prosthetist, BOC-Certified

A BOC-Certified Prosthetist must meet continuing education and annual renewal requirements to maintain certification. The BOCP must also adhere to a code of ethics designed to ensure a comprehensive scope of professional competence and deportment. BOCP activities must reflect his/her certification(s) and education.

III. Roles of a Prosthetist, 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 prosthetic, device(s); create appropriate models; fabricate, measure, assemble, and apply prosthesis to patient. Modify, adjust, and conduct trial fittings; facilitate patient's understanding; and conduct appropriate follow-up. Prosthetists 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 a prosthetic 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 prosthetic services.