

Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Certified Orthotist**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Certified Orthotist provides specialized care to patients with medical conditions of the neuromuscular-skeletal structure of the body by evaluating, measuring, designing, fabricating, fitting and aligning orthotic devices. In addition this position also instructs the patient on the proper use and manipulation of the orthoses in activities of daily living.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Conducts patient assessment of mobility, strength, endurance and other physical abilities.
- Consults closely with the Physiotherapists and medical staff who have referred the patients.
- Designs devices to improve patient's mobility or reduce pain.
- Takes measurements and profiles to develop detailed specifications to fabricate orthotic devices.
- Applies negative casts, modifies positive casts and designs orthotic devices.
- Fits and aligns or oversees the fitting and aligning of orthotic device(s) on the patient; makes alterations as necessary.
- Maintains clinical records and information for billing purposes.
- Refers clients to private clinics when needed.
- Provides training and educational programs to health care professionals, interns, students and external organizations.

Leadership

- Provides work direction to Orthotic Technicians.
- Oversees the fabrication and fitting of orthotic devices.

Decision-Making

- Makes clinically based decisions in planning, creating and evaluating orthotic devices.
- Advises patients regarding continuing treatments and the use and care of orthotic devices.
- Recommends prescriptions for orthotic requirement with medical personnel, patients and other health professionals.

Knowledge:

Education

- Diploma from an accredited Clinical Prosthetic/Orthotic Program **plus** Bachelors Degree in a related health discipline.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists (CBCPO).

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Lifting, transferring patients, bending, standing and reaching.

Work Environment

- Exposure to dust, heat and noise.
- Works in a cast room and/or mechanical workshop.