

Orthotic Fitter Course Approval Committee Position Statement

The Certified Fitter credential allows the fitter to practice independently within their approved Scope of Practice. To ensure that the credentialed fitter provides safe and appropriate patient care the course approval committee relies on two documents: The Fitter Scope of Practice and the Fitter Practice Analysis.

The Scope of Practice outlines the specific devices that are considered "off the shelf", "over the counter" and "custom fit". In addition, the Fitter Scope of Practice identifies areas of care that fall outside the credentialed fitter's abilities based upon education, diagnosis complexity and risk, e.g.:

- * Cervical orthoses used to treat an unstable cervical condition
- * Prefabricated orthoses for the upper and lower extremities used in the initial and/or acute treatment of long bone fractures and dislocations.
- * Functional electrical stimulation orthoses (e.g. myo-orthosis, neuroprosthesis)
- * Prefabricated spinal orthoses used in the treatment of scoliosis or unstable spinal conditions, including halo cervical orthoses

The Orthotic Fitter Practice analysis outlines the domains of practice, tasks associated with the domains, knowledge statements, skill statements and a device list. The Fitter Practice Analysis is used by the committee to determine appropriate course and lab content.

Currently the committee is using the Fitter Scope of Practice and the Fitter Practice Analysis that were developed by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics. The committee finds these documents to be both comprehensive and contemporary.

The Scope of Practice gives direction to specific and limited areas of practice for the orthotic fitter. The Practice Analysis outlines the process of patient care and practice management in a contemporary orthotic fitter environment. The contemporary environment is outlined in the following manner:

Assessment of prescription or patient's needs for prefabricated orthoses

Formulation of a treatment plan

Implementation of the orthotic fitter's treatment plan

Utilization of a follow-up treatment plan

Compliance with practice management plans

The committee believes that by using these structured documents, liability associated with the delivery off the shelf items is further limited to the credential individual, the employer and the orthotic fitter course provider.

It is the committee's position that education on topics that are not within the Scope of Practice and Practice Analysis should not be included as part of an Orthotic Fitter Course. Therefore the Fracture Bracing component should not be part of the course.