

Career Profile ORTHOPAEDIC TECHNOLOGIST

What is an Orthopaedic Technologist? – Career Description/Scope

Orthopaedic Technologists are unregulated health professionals who are medically trained to work under the direction of physicians and in collaboration with other members of the health care team. They are experts in plaster and synthetic cast application and are responsible for instructing patients on this form of treatment. They provide care to patients with orthopaedic problems through the application, adjustment and removal of a variety of casts, splints and traction fittings. Orthopaedic Technologists perform casting services primarily in the hospital Fracture Clinic setting, the Emergency Department and the Operating Room.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

Admission Requirements:

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (or equivalent)

Program Specifics:

- Apprenticeship Program (college course is now available); OR
- Sponsorship by Orthopaedic Physician
- Nursing and/or medical background is an asset

Orthopaedic Technologist Practice Requirements

- Entry to Practice
 - National exam and membership with the Canadian Society of Orthopaedic Technologists (CSOT)
- Ongoing
 - Membership with CSOT
 - Continuing education hours
 - Quality assurance program
 - Professional portfolio
 - Annual self-assessment

How does an Orthopaedic Technologist Practice at TBRHSC?

- Under direction of the Physician, by delegation through medical directives or direct orders

What does an Orthopaedic Technologist Do?

- Provide casting services for both inpatients and outpatients
- Organize the workload and fulfill the responsibilities of the position, while working within the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Provide patient and family teaching

Web Resources

- Canadian Society of Orthopaedic Technologists www.pappin.com/csot