

# National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists

## Code of Ethics

### Preamble

Orthopaedic Technologists and/or Orthopaedic Technologists-Surgery Certified (OTC® and/or OT-SC™) practice Orthopaedic Technology by providing orthopaedic and orthopaedic related services. They accept the responsibility conferred upon them by the state, the profession, and society. The National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists has adopted this Code of Ethics to guide its certificants in fulfilling their obligation as professionals. Each certificant of the National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists has a personal responsibility to uphold and adhere to these ethical standards.

### 1 Responsibility to Patients

OTC® and/or OT-SC™ preserve human dignity, respect the moral and legal rights of health consumers, and support the safety and well being of the patient under their care.

1.1 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ renders quality orthopaedic care regardless of the patient's race, religion, age, sex, nationality, disability, social or economic status.

1.2 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ protects the patient from harm and is an advocate for the patient's welfare.

1.3 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ avoids conflicts between his or her personal integrity and the patient's rights. In situations where the OTC® and/or OT-SC™ personal convictions prohibit participation in a particular procedure, the OTC® and/or OT-SC™ refuses to participate or withdraws from the case provided that such refusal or withdrawal does not harm the patient or constitute a breach of duty.

1.4 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ takes appropriate action to protect patients from healthcare providers who are incompetent, impaired, or engage in illegal or unethical practice.

1.5 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ maintains confidentiality of patient information except in those rare events where accepted practice demands otherwise.

1.6 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ does not knowingly engage in deception in any form.

1.7 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ does not exploit nor abuse his or her relationship of trust and confidence with the patient or the patient's dependence on the OTC® and/or OT-SC™

### 2 Competence

The scope of practice engaged in by the OTC® and/or OT-SC™ is within the individual competence of the OTC® and/or OT-SC™. Each OTC® and/or OT-SC™ has the responsibility to maintain competency in practice.

2.1 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ engages in lifelong, professional educational activities.

2.2 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ participates in continuous quality improvement activities.

2.3 The practicing OTC® and/or OT-SC™ maintains his or her certification as a OTC® and/or OT-SC™, meets advanced practice state statutory or regulatory requirements, if any, and maintains recertification as a OTC® and/or OT-SC™.

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2.4 Gross or repeated negligence or malpractice in professional work, which includes releasing confidential medical information of orthopaedic patients or others with whom the certificant or applicant has a professional relationship to third parties according to applicable laws, rules and regulations will result in action that may result in the suspension or revocation of the OTC® and/or OT-SC™

### **3 Responsibilities as a Professional**

Orthopaedic Technologists and/or Orthopaedic Technologists-Surgery Certified are responsible and accountable for the services they render and the actions they take.

3.1 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™, as a certified professional, is responsible and accountable for judgments made and actions taken in his or her professional practice. Neither physician orders nor institutional policies relieve the OTC® and/or OT-SC™ of responsibility for his or her judgments made or actions taken.

3.2 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ practices in accordance with the professional practice standards established by the profession.

3.3 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ participates in activities that contribute to the ongoing development of the profession and its body of knowledge.

3.4 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ is responsible and accountable for his or her conduct in maintaining the dignity and integrity of the profession.

3.5 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ collaborates and cooperates with other healthcare providers involved in a patient's care.

3.6 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ respects the expertise and responsibility of all healthcare providers involved in providing services to patients.

3.7 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ and candidates will be held responsible and prosecuted for any unauthorized possession, use, access, or distribution of certification examinations, score reports, certificates, certificant or applicant files, documents or other examination materials.

3.8 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ will not knowingly make any material misrepresentation or fraudulent statement to the NBCOT or to the public, including but not limited to statements made to assist the applicant, certificant, or another apply for, obtain, or retain certification.

3.9 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ will not misuse or misrepresent the mark of OTC® and/or OT-SC™. The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ understands that if his/her certification lapses, he/she will no longer be allowed to use The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ mark after his/her name until such time that he/she re-tests and successfully passes the certification examination.

3.10 Any physical and/or drug condition, or habitual use of alcohol or any other drug or substance to a degree which impairs competent and objective professional performances will be grounds for action that may result in the suspension, or revocation of the OTC® and/or OT-SC™ certification.

3.11 The conviction of, plea of guilty to or plea of nolo contendere to a felony or misdemeanor, which is directly related to public health, orthopaedic care, or education. This includes but is not limited to rape, sexual abuse of a child or patient, actual or threatened use of a weapon of violence; the prohibited sale or distribution of controlled substance, or its possession with the

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intent to distribute will result in action that may result in the suspension or revocation of the OTC® and/or OT-SC™

## **4 Responsibility to Society**

OTC® and/or OT-SC™ collaborate with members of the health professions and other citizens in promoting community and national efforts to meet the health needs of the public.

## **5 Endorsement of Products and Services**

OTC® and/or OT-SC™ endorse products and services only when personally satisfied with the product's or service's safety, effectiveness and quality. OTC® and/or OT-SC™ do not state that the NBCOT has endorsed any product or service unless the Board of Directors of the National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists has done so.

5.1 Any endorsement is truthful and based on factual evidence of efficacy.

5.2 A OTC® and/or OT-SC™ does not exploit his or her professional title and credentials for products or services which are unrelated to his or her professional practice or expertise.

## **6 Research**

OTC® and/or OT-SC™ protect the integrity of the research process and the reporting and publication of findings.

6.1 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ evaluates research findings and incorporates them into practice as appropriate.

6.2 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ conducts research projects according to accepted ethical research and reporting standards established by public law, institutional procedures, and the health professions.

6.3 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ protects the rights and well being of people and animals that serve as subjects in research.

6.4 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ participates in research activities to improve practice, education, and public policy relative to health needs of diverse populations, the health workforce, the organization and administration of health systems, and healthcare delivery.

## **7 Business Practices**

OTC® and/or OT-SC™, regardless of practice arrangements or practice settings, maintain ethical business practices in dealing with patients, colleagues, institutions, and corporations.

7.1 The contractual obligations of a OTC® and/or OT-SC™ are consistent with the professional standards of practice and the laws and regulations pertaining to the Orthopaedic Technology profession.

7.2 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ not participate in deceptive or fraudulent business practices.

7.3 The OTC® and/or OT-SC™ and candidates will be truthful in all aspects of the application process, including eligibility requirements for certification, or continuing education and standards of practice.