



The National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists

Standards of Practice For the Orthopaedic Technologist – Surgery Certified (OT-SC™)

Disclaimer:

The intent of these Standards of Practice is to provide a summary of the duties and responsibilities that may be performed by the Orthopaedic Technologist-Certified (OT-SC™). It is not intended to be a complete text of all job related duties, responsibilities, limitations, or skills that an Orthopaedic Technologist-Certified (OT-SC™) may be required to perform.

Definition:

An Orthopaedic Technologist-Surgery Certified (OT-SC™) carries out functions that will provide assistance to the physicians that are involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients in performing safe operations with optimal results for patients. OT-SCs perform under the direct supervision of the Orthopaedic Surgeon and have acquired sufficient knowledge to perform the necessary duties through formal education, continuing education, supervised practice, or any combination of these methods.

The Orthopaedic Technologist – Surgery Certified are those individuals that have demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed to work as an Orthopaedic Technologist – Surgery Certified and who have passed the National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologist Certification Examination. The Orthopaedic Technologist – Surgery Certified maintains certification by complying with the rules and policies of the NBCOT. The Orthopaedic Technologists-Surgery Certified may use the acronym OT-SC™.

OT-SCs are not trained to perform any surgical procedure independent of a Surgeon. The defined role of the OT-SC will vary with the surgeons that are involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients, surgical procedure, or the facilities where performed.

Standards:

The standards are not intended as a complete list of abilities, but are designed to guide the OT-SC in assisting the Physician that is involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients in assessment of signs, symptoms, analysis, treatment and the care of the orthopaedic surgical patient. Passage of the NBCOT Certification Examination signifies an entry level of knowledge of the following categories in the specialty of Orthopaedic Technology-Surgery Certified.

- Pre-Operative Management
- Intra-Operative Management
- Post-Operative Management
- Regulatory and Ethical Responsibilities

Functions and Responsibilities:

The OT-SC shall practice in accordance with any existing state and/or facility rules or regulations.

1. The OT-SC shall function under the supervision of the Physician that is involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients. Supervision shall be continuous but shall not be construed as necessarily requiring the physical presence of the supervising physician at the time and place where such services are performed.
2. The OT-SC shall function as a part of the Orthopaedic Surgical Team in the care and management of the orthopaedic patient.

3. The OT-SC shall be responsible for the accurate recording and reporting of facts, including evaluation and treatment of the orthopaedic patient.
4. The OT-SC may assist with patient education involving the care and plan of treatment of the orthopaedic surgical patient.
5. The OT-SC may assist with application and execution of orthopaedic procedures and services and execute legal orders of the supervising Physician that is involved in the musculoskeletal care of patients
6. The OT-SC may render follow up care and services commensurate with education and experience.
7. The OT-SC may perform the following duties after proficiency has been demonstrated and in accordance with established policies and procedures.
 - a. In the event of emergency situations, administration of all recognized first aid procedures.
 - b. Performance of history and physical assessment of the orthopaedic patient.
 - c. Assist with aspirations and prepare injections.
 - d. Application and removal of all types of casts, splints, immobilization devices and traction as well as wound closure materials (suture/staples).
 - e. Assist with the reduction of fractures and dislocations.
 - f. Assist with and perform the removal of orthopaedic hardware.
8. The OT-SC may perform the following surgical responsibilities.
 - a. Scheduling surgical procedures.
 - b. Position, prep and drape patients by using accepted practices and techniques in order to prepare the patient for surgery.
 - c. First or second assistant with all procedures to include, but are not limited to; haemostasis, tissue retraction, suturing and closure of tissue planes, cutting of sutures, closing operative incision by using accepted surgical practices and techniques.
 - d. Applying intraoperative dressings to surgical site.
 - e. Assesses the surgical patient for postoperative complications.
 - f. Provides discharge instructions to the surgical patient.
 - g. Adheres to ethical guidelines.