

Professional Ethics
Orthotic Fitter Course
CFS Allied Health Education

Introduction

- The practice of orthotics and prosthetics (the "Profession") is a recognized allied health profession. The certified fitter assumes specific responsibilities to the physician or other licensed healthcare prescriber, the patient, the public, associates and to the Profession itself.

Introduction

- These responsibilities must be discharged with honor and integrity to assure the maintenance of public confidence in the Profession.

Ethics, Custom and the Law

- Unethical conduct may involve violations of customs and usages of the Profession as well as actions that violate the law.

Diagnosis and Prescription

- It is the sole responsibility of the physician or appropriately licensed health care provider, and not the certified fitter, to determine the medical appropriateness of the prescription.

Evaluation and Recommendation

- It is the responsibility of the orthotist or prosthetist to recommend specific orthotics design, not the certified fitter.

Changes in Patient's Condition

- When requested by the patient and/or the patient's physician or healthcare provider, the certified fitter shall monitor and observe the patient's physical condition in connection with the orthotic care and the prescribed device to make certain the patient is responding appropriately.

Provision of Services

- The certified fitter shall recognize the patient's freedom of choice in selection of the orthotic design and treatment.

Altering Orthosis

- The certified fitter may refer repairs or adjustments to an orthosis to an orthotist or pedorthist without notifying the prescribing healthcare provider. However, such repairs or adjustments must conform to the original prescription.

Confidential Information

- All information relating to a patient's background, condition, treatment or management plan or any other information relating to the certified fitter / patient relationship is and shall always remain confidential and may not be communicated to any third party not involved in the patient's care without the prior written consent of the patient or patient's legal guardian.

Competency

- All certified fitters shall provide competent services and shall use all efforts to meet the patient's orthotics and prosthetics requirements.

Research

- All certified fitters shall support research activities that contribute to the understanding of improved patient care.

Trust and Honesty

- All certified fitters shall always be truthful and honest to the patient, the physician and the public in general.

Fees and Compensation

- Fees for certified fitter services should be reasonable for the services performed, taking into consideration the setting in which the services are provided, the practice costs in the geographic area, the judgment of other related or similar organizations, and other relevant factors.

Practice Arrangements

- Certified fitters shall not: (i) directly or indirectly request, receive or participate in dividing, transferring, assigning or rebating any funds derived from a referral of a patient to any other individual or entity, whether affiliated with the certified fitter or otherwise; or (ii) except for the fees earned for services performed for the patient, profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration, such as an unearned commission, discount or gratuity for providing of certified fitter services.

Delay in Services

- It is unethical for the certified fitter to accept any prescription when the certified fitter knows, or has good cause to believe, that the orthosis and/or shoes cannot be furnished within a reasonable period of time.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

- Certified fitters shall provide consultation, evaluation, treatment and preventive care in accordance with the laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which they practice.

Consumer Protection

- All certified fitters shall report to the Certifying Organization any conduct that appears to be unethical, incompetent or illegal.

Delegation of Responsibility

- Certified fitters shall not delegate any responsibility requiring unique skills, knowledge or judgment to a less than qualified person.

Information to Patient

- Certified fitters shall endeavor to educate the public about the Profession through the publication of articles as well as participation in seminars, lectures and civic programs.

Illegal Discrimination

- The certified fitter shall not decline to accept a patient on the basis of race, gender, color, religion or national origin or on any basis that would constitute illegal discrimination.

**Sexual Relations with Patient
Prohibited**

- The certified fitter shall not have consensual or nonconsensual sexual relations with a current or former patient.

Dignity and Status

- All certified fitters have the personal responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that will assure the dignity and status of the Profession.

Commercialization

- The primary professional function of the certified fitter is to develop the orthosis or prosthesis as part of a medical treatment team.

Solicitation

- It is unethical for a certified fitter to either directly or indirectly solicit the patronage of individual patients by way of intimidation, threats, harassing conduct, undue influence, coercion, duress, unwarranted promises of benefits or solicitation of a patient who is apparently in a mental condition that impairs his/her personal judgment to make decisions concerning the products or services being offered.

Education

- All certified fitters shall support quality educational programs and forums in academic and clinical settings.

Use of Certification

- The certified fitter shall use the fact that they are certified only as evidence of meeting the requisite standard of knowledge and competency in the profession as defined by the Certifying Organization. It is unethical for a non-certified fitter to represent, directly or indirectly, that he or she is certified.

End of module
