

# MAHCP Career Profile Orthopedic Technologist

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Currently, MAHCP represents 15 Registered Orthopedic Technologist and 4 Orthopedic Technician positions at the Health Sciences Centre, St. Boniface General Hospital, Seven Oaks General Hospital, Brandon General Hospital and Misericordia Health Centre.

The difference between Orthopedic Technologists and Technicians is that Technicians are Technologists in training and are expected to complete the educational requirements of orthopedic technology.

Orthopedic Technologists work in the cast rooms, wards and Emergency departments of these facilities and provide a very specialized and valuable service to Manitoba patients. We are responsible for the care of adults and children with various orthopedic injuries and Manitoba technologists see approximately *45,000 patients per year*. Duties may include:

- Application, removal and changing of all types of casts
- Application of traction for immobilization – including unstable cervical fractures
- Application of various types of splints and braces
- Assisting in the setting of bones before casting or application of traction
- Triage of clinical cases to determine the urgency of care
- Responsible for large yearly budgets and expenses
- Care of patients with ongoing orthopedic and vascular wounds
- Education of medical and nursing students
- Provision of service to Neurology, Plastic and Orthopedic surgeons
- Members of the trauma team responsible for stabilizing fractures of all accident victims

Orthopedic Technologists have a governing body called the Canadian Society of Orthope-

dic Technologists (CSOT). Registration in this group is a mandatory condition of employment in all Manitoba facilities. The requirements for becoming eligible to write the CSOT registration exams are:

- Complete grade 12 education
- University based Human Anatomy and Physiology course
- 1000 hours training under the guidance of a Registered Technologist and the Orthopedic Surgeon.

Upon completion of the training period, a written examination is required with a passing grade of 70%. Six months after the completion of the written exam, an oral and practical exam is conducted. Continuing education points are required yearly to maintain certification

Registered Orthopedic Technologists are an essential component of an integrated orthopedic patient care system in Manitoba, and, as attested to in writing by surgeons and other professional colleagues, our health care system cannot function effectively without our services.

Recruitment and retention continues to be a growing concern and directly affects the care of Manitobans. Like all of you, what we really want is the recognition that comes with respect.