

MAHCP Career Profile

Orthopaedic Technologist

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Registered Orthopaedic Technologist
Health Sciences Centre

At the present time there are 16 Registered Orthopaedic Technologists and 7 Non-Registered Orthopaedic Technicians represented by MAHCP in five (5) primary health care facilities in Manitoba. Our members are throughout the following centres: Health Sciences Centre, Seven Oaks General Hospital, Brandon General Hospital, Concordia General Hospital, and Misericordia Health Centre.

The primary difference between a Registered Orthopaedic Technologist and a Non-Registered Technician is as follows:

- The technician must have a minimum of complete grade 12 (Manitoba) with preference given by employers to post secondary schooling.
- Completion of a recognized university level Human Anatomy and Physiology course with a passing grade.
- Solicit the sponsorship of a Licensed/Practicing Orthopaedic Doctor/Surgeon willing to mentor the applicant and to train under the direct supervision of them and a Registered Orthopaedic Technologist in order to attain at least 1000 on the job training credit hours.

Orthopaedic Technologists have a national registering/governing body known as The Canadian Society of Orthopaedic Technologists (CSOT), which controls the registration, examination and education of it's members.

Technicians must petition the society to write the exams and submit documents validating the above pre-requisites.

Once conditions are met the candidate can write the exam and MUST achieve at least 75%. The candidate is then allowed to challenge the oral and practical components of the exam process. Passing grades must be achieved in all segments of the process which govern not only the depth of knowledge, but also skill, and aptitude as it applies to profession.

Orthopaedic Technologists work on the front end of the healthcare line, and strive every day/night to deliver timely,



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appropriate, quality, care to Manitobans, Orthopaedic technologists see thousands of patients yearly face to face; one on one.

You will find Registered Orthopaedic Technologists in Emergency rooms, Intensive Care wards, Surgical wards, Out-patient clinics, Medical wards, and Operating rooms in both Paediatric or Adult settings.

The duties of a technologist can be as varied; some of which are listed below:

- Applying or removal of splints or casts.
- Application or removal of specialty diabetic total contact casts, that require further specialized knowledge and skills from the technologist.
- Registered Orthopaedic technologists may be involved in regular "FLY-IN" treatment cycles to northern "First Nations" communities that don't have ready access to our skills in the local medical spectrum.
- The application of all types of traction devices to life threatening conditions; such as unstable cervical spine injuries or splinting/stabilize poly trauma accident victims, assessing the priority of what has the best benefit for the patient.
- Orthopaedic technologists regularly assist in the manual/mechanical reduction of muscle-skeletal injuries prior to immobilization via casting or traction.
- Ongoing care of wounds arising from initial injury or subsequent to initial treatment, and may involve any or all of the following; dressing changes, contact dressing, bio-burden unloading dressings, pressure bandages, and even sharp debridement of the wound in order to promote the regranulation of healthy skin tissue, in order to close a wound.



- We are constantly called upon to in-service/teach or generally cross train medical or nursing students.
- Orthopaedic Technologists are working daily in a multi-discipline team environment, be it Neurology, Orthopaedics, Plastics, Haematology,

Registered Orthopaedic technologists and training technicians are a valued asset for all that utilize our skills; physicians/surgeons, nursing staff both inside and outside of the hospital setting. Orthopaedic technologists are a resource to nursing homes or agencies transferring to, or receiving patients from our site concerning their treatment regimes.

We must maintain a constant upgrade of our skills through a "continuing education program" required by our governing body in order to provide Manitobans with the best care we can.