

The Hinnant Prosthetics Quarterly

Experience Our Road to Prosthetic Excellence

Spring 1998

Improving Quality of Life for Amputees... Discover Our Road to Prosthetic Excellence

Hinnant Artificial Limb Co., Inc. has been providing prosthetic services to North and South Carolina for more than 66 years. We have been an integral part in the amputee rehabilitation process and felt the need to modernize our services and enhance our education and technology to better meet the needs of the physician, therapist and rehab specialist — the Rehab Team.

When a patient is referred to our office for prosthetic intervention, we will evaluate and send a detailed written consultation for your review and consideration. It is our goal at Hinnant, to ensure that your patient is provided with the best possible prosthetic services. With input from you, we focus on each patient's individual needs to ensure we provide the most appropriate prosthesis.



Although we have treated more than 25,000 amputees successfully — of which 15,000 were repeat patients — there is always room for improvement. We have made those improvements.

Our staff members are:
American Board Certified — The highest accreditation in our industry ★ Members of the International Society for Prosthetics ★ Members of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association ★ Members

of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists ★ Members of the North Carolina State Society of Orthotists and Prosthetists

Our Facilities are:
American Board Accredited

We realize the importance the prosthesis plays in an amputee's rehabilitation process and activities of daily living. So, as a rule, prosthetic devices are delivered within two weeks and *we ensure patient satisfaction.*

Hinnant accepts assignment from Medicare, Medicaid, Crippled Children's, Vocational Rehabilitation, Veterans Administration and most

insurance carriers. We have individualized payment plans for patients who have no insurance.

There is never a charge for a written consultation.

We specialize in:
★ Upper extremity ★ Lower extremity
★ Hip disarticulation ★ Myoelectric systems
★ Cosmetic prostheses
★ Partial foot prostheses ★ Sports prostheses
★ Geriatric prostheses

We can be your solution. Hinnant Prosthetic Company can meet your needs today and tomorrow.



We will be happy to meet with you and discuss our prosthetic services in greater detail.

Hinnant Prosthetics

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Charlotte, NC 28203

704-375-2587

4455 Devine St.
Columbia, SC 29205

803-787-6911

temporary location:
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104 Jefferson St.
Hamlet, NC 28345

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Credential of Competence

It may come as a surprise to some health care providers who order prosthetic and orthotic services for their patients, but in most states, practitioners providing O & P services are not required to demonstrate any minimum level of knowledge or competence as a prerequisite for doing business.

Physicians are licensed; physical therapists are registered or licensed, depending on the state; so are respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, paramedics, and most other allied health providers. But except for New Jersey, which has passed but not yet activated a licensing statute, and a few other locations, orthotics and prosthetics practice has been, and continues to be, largely unregulated.

For that reason, and the resulting open invitation for non- or underqualified individuals and facilities to render inferior care to unsuspecting patients, industry leaders in 1948 formed the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics (ABC). The goal of the new organization was to "encourage and promote high standards and to develop competence and professionalism."



ABC now conducts competency-based credentialing programs for both individual practitioners (certification) and O & P facilities (accreditation). From the minimal standards originally adopted in the late 1940s, the requirements for ABC certification have expanded over the years. ABC-certified practitioners are identified by the credentials: C.P. (certified prosthetist), C.O. (certified orthotist) or CPO (certified prosthetist-orthotist). The board also maintains a registry program for O & P assistants and technicians.

Certification Requirements

To earn American Board certification, orthotists and prosthetists must first have established a strong educational foundation — either an O & P baccalaureate degree or a baccalaureate in another discipline AND completion of an O & P certificate program of from 12 to 18 months.

Upon this base, the certification candidate must build a framework of 1900 hours of clinical experience, evaluating patient needs and designing and fabricating orthotic and prosthetic systems under the supervision of a certified practitioner. Upon attaining that level of achievement and having been found to be of sound moral character, practitioners are eligible to sit for the certification exams.

Certification candidates take three separate examinations in pursuit of their goal: a written exam, a four-day clinical patient management skills demonstration, and a newly added element: a written patient care (problem-solving) simulation. Candidates must pass all three phases to earn certification.

Other Programs

While ABC is the only viable credentialing body for prosthetists, two other organizations — the Board for Orthotic Certification (BOC) and the National Association of Retail Druggists (NARD) — issue credentials for individuals involved in fitting and fabricating orthotic devices. The differences in certification requirements among the three credentialing programs are significant (see accompanying table).

While all efforts to improve the quality of O & P care are laudable, the more stringent requirements of ABC certification are generally regarded as the more influential and definitive for designating professional competence. For example, the Department

of Veterans Affairs, among other groups, requires ABC-certification of O & P practitioners as a condition of payment.

As an organization, ABC devotes all its resources to professional certification and facility accreditation. Its \$1 million budget is spent exclusively for improving the certification examination and the process of credentialing people and facilities. No monies are spent on government relations, protecting organizational interests or marketing.

Canons of Conduct

Besides providing a benchmark of professional competence for other health care providers, patients and the general public, ABC certification serves to elevate the ethical standards of the orthotic and prosthetic disciplines. All ABC certificants, including facilities, technicians and assistants, are subject to the Canons of Ethical Conduct, adopted by the profession in 1968.

Certification Requirements	
COMPONENTS	ABC
Educational qualifications to sit for competency-based examination	Baccalaureate degree in O or Baccalaureate in any discipline "plus"... Completion of certificate program varying from one year to 18 months, depending on the program
Nature of examination	Written simulation (problem-solving test) Written examination Clinical patient demonstration examination
Required experience	1900 hours of supervised clinical experience under guidance of a certifier*
Typical skills and knowledge tested by examination	Evaluation, design, fabrication and fit of orthoses and prostheses for all anatomical areas
	* Being replaced by one-year residency in each discipline.

e – Hallmark of Excellence

The major portion of the Canons addresses practitioners' responsibilities to prescribing physicians, patients, and colleagues and the O & P profession. For a copy of the Canons, contact our office.

Violation of the Canons, as determined by ABC's Character and Fitness Committee upon review of an allegation or complaint by a patient or another practitioner, can result in revocation of certification credentials.

Continuing Education

Today, maintaining ABC certification requires not only satisfying initial education, and experience and practical performance criteria, but also ongoing participation in continuing education to demonstrate active efforts to stay abreast of new materials, techniques, and technology. Effective Dec. 1, 1994, all ABC-certified practitioners must complete 75 approved continuing education units (CEUs) every five years to maintain their certification.

In summary, certification provides the only reliable objective criterion for ascertaining professional knowledge, clinical practice competence, technological currency and adherence to ethical standards of O & P practitioners.

We are proud to apply the knowledge, skill and experience of ABC-certified practitioners to the care of your physically challenged patients.

New Pylon Technology Boosts Amputee Comfort, Function

Recent advances in prosthetic technology have produced an important new role for the pylon, the metal "connecting rod" in an endoskeletal lower-limb prosthesis.

Until now, the pylon has served on primarily to link a prosthetic foot to either the socket or knee unit of a prosthetic limb system. However, three new products — the **AirStance** from Seattle Limb Systems, **Re-Flex VSP** from Flex-Foot, and **Stratus Impact-Reducing Pylon** from Ohio Willow Wood — seek to enhance amputee function and comfort by absorbing much of the shock and rotational forces of ambulation, which otherwise are transmitted directly to the residual limb. These new components have been shown to reduce amputee discomfort and fatigue, build endurance and improve gait performance for many amputees.

Requirements - A Comparison

	BOC	NARD
D&P	High school diploma or equivalency and 40 hours of formal education	High school diploma or equivalency
Written and practical	Written and practical	Written and practical
Supervised experience	2 years	3 years supervised experience by a licensed pharmacist
Orthoses & prostheses	Fit limited orthoses & breast prostheses	Fit limited orthoses



The **Stratus** can be used with standard modular components and various prosthetic foot designs. This pylon provides shock absorption by means of a compression ring, which can be ordered in one of five different degrees of cushioning to match amputee size and activity level. The Stratus pylon is rated for patients weighing up to 250 pounds and is said to reduce maximum force levels transmitted to the residual limb by 30 percent.

The **AirStance** is a pneumatic system, incorporating a piston and cylinder arrangement, which the patient can adjust for performance and comfort using an accessory pump. It is rated for amputees weighing up to 300 pounds and is appropriate for both above- and below-knee amputees.



The **Re-Flex VSP (vertical shock pylon)** employs telescoping tubes and an external carbon-fibre spring assembly to provide advanced cushioning and dynamic response. The side spring is interchangeable, allowing the wearer to select springs of varying stiffness for different activities. The Re-Flex VSP is designed to be used with a Flex-Foot graphite foot; a split-toe version is generally recommended for added stability.

Hinnant practitioners are well-acquainted with these exciting new pylons and will be pleased to discuss the feasibility of selecting and providing the most appropriate design for your amputee patient.

The Cirrus Prosthetic Foot

No matter how you look at it, the Cirrus Foot is unique...a distinctly different concept, which has been under development for more than seven years.

Compared to virtually all other prosthetic foot models, five independent carbon-composite springs — three "toes" and two in the heel — immediately set this model apart. The toe springs provide excellent terrain conformance and ankle motion of 32-40 degrees. The heel springs section is designed to deliver fluid energy transmission and uniform roll-through from heel-strike to toe-off, eliminating the "dead spot" and hesitation that

commonly occur with many other prosthetic feet. Both toe and heel springs are offered in five readily interchangeable weight/activity classes to customize the Cirrus to the individual gait characteristics of the wearer.

At 462 grams, the Cirrus is among the lightest feet on the market. It is intended for patients weighing up to 300 pounds and comes with a custom anatomical footshell. Although it has been available for only a short time, this product's unique design and response characteristics, advanced comfort and high level of



stability suggest that it will be a popular prosthetic option for many years to come.

For further information on the Cirrus Foot, call and ask to speak with Kale Hinnant, C.P.

A New Lightweight High-Comfort Liner

The Alpha Liner, manufactured by Ohio Willow Wood Company, is a skin-friendly, mineral-based gel liner, available with or without a locking mechanism. Both the Alpha Cushion Liner and the Alpha Locking Liner roll easily onto the residual limb, providing extra padding and comfort. The inner liner consists of a mineral oil-based gel that

The Alpha Liners are extremely durable and can stretch without tearing. They are extremely form-fitting to virtually eliminate noise during gait. Because the Alpha is sized, it can be fitted in one short office visit, eliminating the need for custom manufacturing and extensive delays with fitting. It is stylish in design with classic colors. Its proprietary materials and design make these the lightest liners of their kind.

The new Alpha Liners are now available to appropriate transtibial amputee patients through Hinnant Prosthetics. We recommend that each patient have two liners, one to provide a full day of comfort while the other refreshes for the next day.



Alpha Locking Liner

The Alpha is tapered, leaving the maximum amount of gel distally and minimum at the top. Both models comes in three thicknesses 3, 6 and 9 mm, with the 6 and 9 mm liners offering relief at the back of the knee for comfortable knee flexion.



Alpha Cushion Liner

For additional information, on this new advance in amputee comfort and protection, we invite you to call our office.

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Return Service Requested

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit 1439
 Jacksonville, FL