

ORTHOSEAT

OrthoSEAT Staff Pursue ATP Credentials

April 1, 2008 is the deadline for Medicare beneficiaries requiring certain power wheelchairs to be evaluated by an ATP (Assistive Technology Practitioner) credentialed professional. In preparation, additional OrthoSEAT staff are obtaining ATP credentials. RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Association of North America), an interdisciplinary association of people with a common interest in technology and disability offers national certification for three technology specialties. They define the ATP as a service provider who analyzes needs of consumers with disabilities, assists in selection of appropriate assistive technology for the consumer's needs, and provides training in the use of the selected device(s).

Currently our Rehab Technology Center has three ATP certified staff, with an additional three OrthoSEAT therapists scheduled for the exam this autumn. The credentials are an excellent fit for the many areas of assistive technology offered at Mary Free Bed. In April, CMS, which oversees the Medicare and Medicaid programs, will require ATP certified professionals who specialize in wheelchair evaluations to complete a thorough evaluation documenting specific criteria for complex power wheelchair recommendations. This new protocol stems from powered mobility fraud problems of recent years and attempts to limit Medicare abuse by unscrupulous providers.

ATP certification will promote a standard for recognizing qualified professionals and validating broad-based knowledge required as the foundation for safe and effective service in the field of assistive technology. The ATP credential promotes quality assurance for the consumer, is a source of pride for the service provider, and promotes a standard of professional practice for the field.

Following the new power chair coding guidelines, an ATP credentialed professional will be required to document the need for a Group 2 standard power chair

with a single power seating component (i.e. tilt, recline, seat elevator) or any Group 3 & 4 chairs with single or multiple power seating options. This includes all of the complex patients seen for rehab services as well as many of the moderately involved patients who require power tilt or recline for pressure relief or functional activities.

With only limited ATP's currently credentialed in Michigan, there is a growing demand for qualified OT's and PT's to pursue this specialty in advance of the Medicare implementation. OrthoSEAT will have the highest concentration of ATP credentialed staff in Michigan, and will continue to meet the complex needs of our customers.

ORTHOTICS

Neurotronics WalkAide

Innovative Neurotronics WalkAide is a functional electrical stimulation (FES) device which stimulates the peroneal nerve to activate the ankle dorsiflexor muscle group. This system has been developed to help patients with upper motor neuron injuries such as spinal cord injury, brain injury, cerebral palsy, stroke and multiple sclerosis walk with a more normal gait. The WalkAide system uses a sensor to detect the movement of the leg, and after programming the device, it will activate the dorsiflexor muscles at the correct time in the gait cycle.

Research has shown benefits to the patients' walking speed, proprioception, effort in walking (PCI), spasticity, and most importantly, the brain (to reorganize and retrain in response to the stimulus).



"WALKAIDE® SYSTEM"
Independence. One step at a time

ORTHOTICS – cont.

Neurotronics WalkAide - cont

In May 2007, Mary Free Bed Physical Therapists and Orthotists completed training on the Innovative Neurotronics WalkAide system. This new advanced sensor technology restores functionality to those with foot drop, and is now being offered through Mary Free Bed's Outpatient Therapy Center working with Mary Free Bed Orthotics. If you would like more information about the Neurotronics WalkAide, please contact John Flynn CPO at (616)242-0315.

Plagiocephaly and Torticollis Helmet Therapy Lunch and Learn Event.

Make sure you mark your calendars for **Wednesday, January 16, 2008** so you do not miss this event. If you are interested in learning more about helmet therapy for



Plagiocephaly and Torticollis, plan on attending this Lunch-and-Learn event sponsored by Mary Free Bed Orthotics and Prosthetics. Dr. Dayle Maples, MD will be presenting on protocols for helmet therapy.

We will also have Mary Free Bed Orthotists, Therapists, and office staff on hand to discuss this process from start to finish. This event is by invitation only and is open to physicians, physician assistants, nurses and office staff who work with patients that would benefit from our services.

To make sure you receive an invitation for this event, please contact Stephanie Millis at (616)242-0305 or Stephanie.millis@maryfreebed.com.

Restoring Hope and *Freedom*
Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital

PROSTHETICS

Meet Will Clark: A man with a contagious passion for life.



The Vietnam War was a difficult time for our country, and we remember that era as being very tumultuous. For Mary Free Bed patient, Will Clark, he remembers it as the war where he lost both of his legs.

While some may think that this event would have ruined Will's life, Will says "not so". Actually, Will lives an active life, and has a definite "glass half full" attitude. Will enjoys golf (he adds that he gets out as "often as my wife will let me"), and has participated in the Michigan Amputee Golf outings. He has also participated in a 110-mile horseback ride in Arizona, goes bicycling regularly with his wife, and enjoys trips in their RV. "The 110-mile horseback ride was hard on my legs, but I loved it. It is one of the toughest challenges I took on." Will put a deck on his house a few years ago, and did everything himself. "I hauled the lumber, and did everything! I don't look at myself as being handicapped", Will says, "I am just me".



"One of my greatest rewards comes from talking to, and motivating, other amputees", Will says. "If there is ever an opportunity to talk to, and encourage, another amputee, I'm there – and I love it."

PROSTHETICS – cont.

Meet Will Clark: A man with a contagious passion for life - cont.

Will and his wife, Laura, have been married for 36 years and have three grown children. For 15 years, Will worked for an accounting firm and then worked as a VP of finance for a construction company before retiring. He says he tries to look at life as normal – “as normal and ordinary as everybody else”. Actually, Will is far from ordinary, doing things that many people with two good legs would not attempt. However, Will doesn’t like to think of himself that way - he is very humble.

Will has been a patient of MFB Prosthetics since 2003. That is when he first started working with Mark Porth and George Dornbos, at our satellite office in Muskegon. According to George, “The man has a passion for life that is contagious. Will is an inspiration to amputees and non-amputees alike. Because of positive people like Will, our world is a better place to live.”

For more information on the services we provide at Mary Free Bed Orthotics and Prosthetics, or to refer a patient, please contact one of our offices.

Orthotics – Grand Rapids Office	(616)242-0315
Prosthetics – Grand Rapids Office	(616)242-0342
Big Rapids Satellite	(800)474-0325
Hastings Satellite	(800)474-0324
Holland Satellite	(616)392-6240
Muskegon Satellite	(231)798-0047

The Otto Bock Road Show – C-Leg Workshop

On August 23rd, Mary Free Bed Prosthetics, along with Byron Backus CP, and Clinical Specialist in Prosthetics, of Otto Bock, hosted a workshop on a computer-controlled prosthetic leg better known as the C-Leg. Otto Bock is the manufacturer of the C-Leg, which is the first completely computer-controlled prosthetic leg in the country.



Photo
Courtesy
Of
Otto-Bock
Prosthetics

There were over 50 participants at the event, including West Michigan amputees, physicians and physical therapists.



Mr. Backus, gave a presentation and provided live demonstrations on the C-Leg. The computer-controlled C-Leg and Compact artificial legs are a quantum leap in prosthetics, and a dramatic improvement over all other lower limb prosthesis. Using on-board sensors and microprocessors to anticipate and adapt to a person’s movement, the C-Leg immediately adjusts 50 times per second to changes in walking speed and direction, providing knee stability the moment it’s needed. These features allow users to walk down stairs and ramps, and maneuver rough terrain, without the fear of falling.



If you have a patient who may be a candidate for the C-Leg, please contact Roxanne Trompen at (616)456-4846 to schedule a free patient evaluation. For more information on the C-Leg, or other prosthetic devices, please contact Stephanie Millis at (616)242-0305 or stephanie.millis@maryfreebed.com, or any of our certified prosthetists listed on the back of this bulletin under “staff contacts”.

PROSTHETICS – cont.

West Michigan Amputee Golf Outing

Mary Free Bed Prosthetics was a sponsor at the West Michigan Amputee Golf Outing held July 27, 28 and 29 in Three Rivers, Michigan. This unique golf outing is open to amputees and others, with a requirement that each team include at least one amputee. Dave Firlik, Certified Prosthetist for Mary Free Bed Prosthetics, participated in Friday's event. Four Mary Free Bed patients also participated in the golf outing, including Jeff Smith.

Jeff, a below knee amputee, participated in this year's event for the first time.

Jeff placed 9th in the Open Division and 4th in his flight.



Jeff likes to golf, ride his motorcycle, and simply enjoys life. He also walks 7 miles a day working for the Big Rapids post office. Jeff says, "If you have a disability, keep living life – I don't look at it as a handicap, I just don't have a lower leg".

If you would like more information about the West Michigan Amputee Association Golf Outing, please contact Stephanie Millis at (616)242-0305, or stephanie.millis@maryfreebed.com.

Restoring Hope and *Freedom*
Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital

Staff Contacts:

Orthotics: John Flynn CPO (Clinical Manager 616-459-1810), Rex Brown CO (Pediatrics 616-356-1886), Gina Corazza CO (Plagiocephaly 616-356-1887), Doug Richardson CO (Spinal Deformities, Brain Injury and Facial Burns 616-242-0315), Becky Meyer CO (Spinal and Pediatrics 616-242-9213), Brent Tuinstra CO (Pediatrics and Plagiocephaly 616-493-9823), Elisa DeJong Staff Orthotist (616-242-0457), Larry Dubinshak CPed (616-356-1884), Becky DeLongpre CPed (616-356-1894), Stacy Eddy, Assistant (River Valley Orthopedics 616-493-9698), Jennifer Marcellus, Assistant (River Valley Orthopedics 616-233-1117).

OrthoS.E.A.T.: Karen Gora (Clinical Manager 616-242-0347), Steve Anderson (Production Supervisor 616-456-4847), Joel Allchin SLP (616-242-0342), Peggy Barbour OTR (616-356-1907), Mary Hamell COTA (616-456-4843), Lisa Newhouse OTR (616-242-9278), Amy Ortego OTR (616-242-9289), Matthew Scholtens (Assistive Technology Specialist 616-356-1892).

Prosthetics: Patrick Nimphie CPO (Clinical Manager 616-356-1865), Mark Bennett CPO (Staff Prosthetist 616-242-0437), David Firlik CP (Upper Extremity 616-242-0453), Tony VanEss CP (Pediatrics 616-242-0461), John King CP (Trans Femoral 616-242-9240).

Rehab Technology Center: Karen Gora (Clinical Manager 616-242-0347), Sister Kathryn Mullarkey (Assistive Tech Coordinator 616-242-9253).

Orthotics & Prosthetics Muskegon / Holland Satellites: Mark Porth CPO (Clinical Manager 616-392-6240).

In-service Requests: Stephanie Millis (Orthotics Assistant and Marketing Specialist 616-242-0305).