



Mark of Merit

JUNE 2020

SETTING STANDARDS · IMPROVING OUTCOMES · CHANGING LIVES

Amputee Coalition Patient Resources

AS PART OF OUR partnership with the Amputee Coalition, all ABC accredited facilities providing prosthetic care received a packet of resource materials in the mail for their patients.

Each facility was sent 10 copies of the newest version of their *First Step* publication to help support the mission of providing patient centered care. Facility owners also received a *Your New Journey* folder which can be used to provide additional patient resources.

In addition, as part of our new partnership, the AC included a

Promoting Amputee Life Skills (PALS) flyer that can be posted in the facility. PALS is an online, interactive program developed by AC and Johns Hopkins University to help individuals manage their

life after limb loss. The program contains information that patients can access from their home or their local library to assist with their recovery and readjustment.

Our hope is that facility owners and their patients will find these items helpful and we are excited about working with the Amputee Coalition to offer you these and other resources in the future. ●



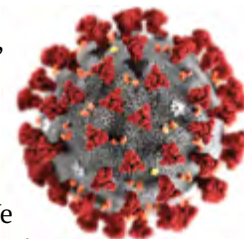
We're Here for You!

AT THE ONSET of the COVID-19 pandemic, we all faced lots of questions and uncertainty.

As your credentialing body, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you informed during this difficult time. ABC staff is working remotely to ensure that we can stay fully operational and ready to serve you. We also have a dedicated COVID-19 Information page on our website that we will continue to update regularly. We hope that many of you have had the opportunity to visit this page, but for those who haven't, here's a recap of some of the information that's available.

We will continue to monitor the pandemic and keep you informed. The safety and well-

being of our employees, certified individuals and candidates, accredited businesses and other constituents is very important to us. We know this is a time of anxiety for you, your coworkers, families and patients. We hope that our efforts serve as a source of valuable information and help you navigate this ever-changing environment.



Please note that you still have 24/7 access to your individual and facility MY ABC accounts with the ability to utilize all of your account features.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us at 703.836.7114 or email us at info@abcop.org.

What You'll Find on Our COVID-19 Web Page

- Updates on ABC Programs and Services including specific details for:**
 - Accredited Facilities & Provider Applicants**
 - Survey postponements
 - Expiration date extensions
 - Certificants and Exam Candidates**
 - Prometric and ABC Testing Center closures and rescheduling
 - Continuing Education Seekers**
 - Tradeshow and conference cancelations
 - eLearning options and information



Answers to critical questions like:

Are O,P&P businesses considered essential healthcare services?	Where can I find financial assistance for my business?	Is O&P included in the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund?	Should I still apply for certification or accreditation?	How can my business utilize telehealth to continue patient care?
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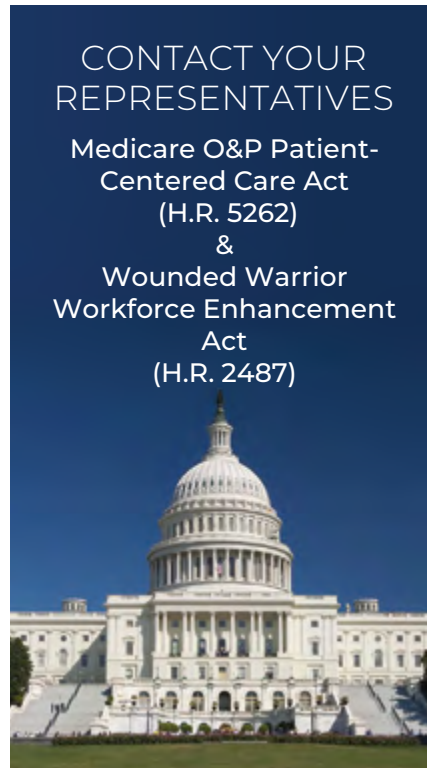
Additional Recommendations and Resources from ABC, the CDC, CMS and other O,P&P organizations

ABC Participates in Virtual AOPA Policy Forum

DUE TO THE restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Policy Forum was held as a virtual conference. Although the Forum was abbreviated and did not include any Congressional visits, it is still critically important to advocate for the profession.

The highlight of this year's Forum was Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth's personal account of working with an ABC certified practitioner. Panelists included AOPA board member Teri Kuffel, JD along with AOPA staff members.

Current issues discussed in detail during the event included the Medicare O&P Patient-Centered Care Act (H.R. 5262) and the Wounded Warrior Workforce



Enhancement Act (H.R. 2487). One of the main goals of H.R. 5262 is to create a more definitive distinction between O&P clinical patient care and the provision of DME. The Wounded Warrior Workforce bill creates grants to universities to create or expand educational programs in orthotics and prosthetics. Attendees were encouraged to contact their representatives to ask for their support of these two important legislative priorities for our profession.

ABC was well represented at the event with board members and staff participating.

To view a recording of the Forum or to access a customizable pre-written letter to email your legislators, visit AOPAnet.org.



Scholar Holler



Century College in Vadnais Heights, Minn.

School Visits Go Virtual!

No classroom? No problem! Campus closures due to COVID-19 and social distancing couldn't keep Jim from visiting these amazing

O&P assistant, technician, fitter and practitioner students.



St. Petersburg Community College in St. Petersburg, Fla.



University of Washington in Seattle

Florida International University in St. Petersburg, Fla.



ABC's Some Good News

IT'S HARD not to feel bummed out or stressed after watching the news these days. But like John Krasinski and his SGN YouTube show, we wanted to share some good news of our own! We learned about some very special people in the O&P profession that are using what resources they have to help healthcare workers during the pandemic.

Tony Culver, President of **Grace Prosthetic Fabrication**, an ABC accredited CFab facility, home cooked 40 barbeque meals for the nurses at Tampa General Hospital.



Tony's 71-year old mother, Grace, contracted the coronavirus and Tony wanted to show his local healthcare workers how much they were appreciated. Keep up the good work, Tony!

The team at **Knit-Rite in Kansas City, Kan.** has converted their production lines (normally used to make medical compression gear) to also now turn out protective face masks. For every mask



sold, Knit-Rite is committed to donating a mask. According to Knit-Rite's Executive Vice President, Kam Howard, "Our goal is to donate masks to organizations within our community that are serving vulnerable populations or critical needs. We hope to produce around 60,000-80,000

masks a week." The company also reached out to ABC to coordinate a mass mailing of complementary masks to all ABC accredited facilities. Thank you to everyone at Knit-Rite for their inventiveness and generosity!

The team at **Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare**, an ABC

accredited patient care facility in St. Paul, Minn. has shifted from fabricating prosthetics and wheelchairs to now making masks for fellow healthcare workers. The masks are intended for hospital employees not involved in the direct effort to treat COVID-19 patients, so that the stock of specialty PPE can be reserved for frontline workers in need of the greatest protection. The team has made hundreds of masks



so far and plans to make hundreds more.

These are just three examples of companies doing great things for their community and we

are so proud they are part of our wonderful profession!

If you have a good news story you'd like to share about someone in our profession giving back, please email Megan Matijevich at mmatijevich@abcop.org.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to see more info on these stories and more! ●

ABC Annual Report NOW Available Online

THE 2019 ABC Annual Report is now available on

the ABC website at ABCop.org. This year's report summarizes ABC's activities for the past year. It highlights our successes and provides data on each program area, including statistics on certified individuals and accredited facilities. ●





AMERICAN BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION

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Corner

CredCast



CREDCAST Podcast Series

FROM IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS on continuing education, insights from our most experienced surveyors and several great interviews with top O&P professionals—there's lots of valuable information to help you navigate these difficult times.

We produced four COVID-19 related podcasts in an effort to assist you and your practice. Please subscribe to CredCast on iTunes or Google Play and stay tuned for future episodes.

EP. 21 – COVID-19 Update

Cathy Carter, ABC's Executive Director, talks with Jim about ABC's actions and activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EP. 22 – Compliance Amidst Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a lot of uncertainty, but one thing is for sure, standards compliance must continue! Join us as we bring together two of ABC's top accreditation surveyors to discuss the standards that are most critical during this difficult time as well as those that tend to cause the most confusion.

Don't forget to **TAKE THE QUIZ** on what you learned and *earn 1 Category I Business Credit!*



EP. 23 – Guidance on SBA Loans

ABC gets the inside scoop from Jeff Magginnis, Senior VP and SBA Sales Manager of First Financial Bank. With nearly 30 years' experience working in the financial

profession, Jeff shares guidance on how to navigate the currently volatile environment of applying for SBA loans. Jim also interviews Tony Ward, CPO and Executive VP of Durrett's Orthotics and Prosthetics, who shares his personal experience applying for an SBA loan during the first round of funding.

EP. 24 – Social Distance & Safety Tips for Your Practice

Wondering what precautions other O&P practices are taking to keep patients and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond? We talked with Brett Saunders, CPO and owner of Saunders Prosthetics & Orthotics Group, to learn what Brett and his staff are doing in their practice. You're sure to take away lots of good ideas and tips from this constructive conversation.

EP. 25 – Telehealth in O&P – Part 1

Whether you're already using telehealth in your practice or considering it, be sure to listen to part one of our two-part podcast which includes guidance from ABC and insight from one practice owner and the impact on her practice.

EP. 26 – Telehealth in O&P – Part 2

Join us for insights from three practitioners who are successfully using telehealth for the continuum of patient care.



Listen on ABCop.org—search **CredCast** or subscribe so you never miss an episode!

