



# ABC Statement on the Role of Certified Prosthetists with Bone-Anchored Prostheses (or Osseointegration)

**B**ONE-ANCHORED prostheses (also known as osseointegration, or OI) have existed since the early 1990s. Since the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has awarded approval for the surgical procedure and components associated with this technology, commercial distribution of OI prostheses is now possible.

Orthotic and/or prosthetic care provided by ABC certified professionals does not include independent provision of invasive procedures\*; however, certified prosthetists do play a role in the provision of bone-anchored prostheses. Once the surgical procedure has been completed and the surgeon has cleared the patient for weight-bearing, the certified

prosthetist can initiate prosthetic treatment. This includes tightening any locking screws incorporated into the implant, as directed by the treating physician.

This type of prosthetic intervention has unique requirements concerning the type of connector component used with the external adapter (sometimes called the abutment). The certified prosthetist must receive a written order from the treating physician and training from the specific manufacturer for the use and maintenance of all components associated with the OI prosthetic care. All manufacturers' guidelines must be followed.

Beyond this special consideration, the existing ABC scope of practice guidelines for the provision of prosthetic care remain the same.

\*An invasive procedure is one where purposeful/ deliberate access to the body is gained via an incision, percutaneous puncture, or instrumentation via a natural orifice.  
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6678000>