



ABC Mastectomy Fitter

Pre-Certification Course Approval Standards



ABC MASTECTOMY FITTER PRE-CERTIFICATION COURSE APPROVAL STANDARDS

ABC has established standards for the delivery and content of Mastectomy Fitter Pre-Certification Courses in order to provide guidance to program instructors of both online and classroom education courses. The standards ensure that the didactic and lab portions of the course are representative of current Mastectomy Fitter practice and that the provision of mastectomy devices are appropriate and safe for the patient. The mechanisms used to formulate the standards include surveys, survey analysis, focus groups, subject-matter expert committees and psychometric consultants.

All ABC Approved mastectomy fitter pre-certification courses are approved for a one year term. The annual fee for approved courses is \$100. Course providers must submit an annual Course Approval Review form. The course review form may be submitted up to four times. A complete application for Pre-Certification Course Approval must be submitted every five years.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- The course must be a minimum of eight hours, with a minimum of two hours of in-person fitting lab.
- The instructor of both the didactic and lab instruction must be a certified mastectomy fitter.

DIDACTIC CONTENT – minimum six hours

Students must have comprehensive exposure to all of the following content:

- Breast prostheses
- Mastectomy items and services
- Mastectomy Fitter Knowledge and Skills (Appendix A)
- Domains of Practice (Appendix B)
- Professional Ethics (*ABC Code of Professional Responsibility*)
- Practice Management/HIPAA (Appendix A)

Upon completion of the course, students must have a basic knowledge of the content areas, have been assessed in their understanding of the post-mastectomy items, demonstrate their knowledge and use of the specific items and demonstrate understanding of their appropriate use as they relate to patient care.

Course content outside of the *ABC Mastectomy Fitter Scope of Practice* is not permitted and will not be counted towards the minimum time required for the course.

DELIVERY FORMAT

Didactic – course content may be delivered either in a classroom setting or through distance learning formats.

Distance learning course content can be delivered via video with narration, CD, DVD or narrated streaming video with a course syllabus or in a non-video format with narration (PowerPoint, Keynote.) The distance learning materials must be available for multiple formats (PC, MAC, Linux.)

The distance learning course provider must provide the capability for real time student interaction during normal business hours as well as alternate sources of student/instructor communication channels. These interactions could be carried out via instant messaging, email, conference call or video conferencing.

DIDACTIC ASSESSMENT

Each student must be assessed to determine if they have obtained the required base set of competencies in the areas of mastectomy fitter knowledge and skills, required pathologies, required items, professional ethics and practice management during and at the completion of the course.

Student Assessment Guidelines

- Case studies are encouraged to reinforce treatment concepts.
- A final graded exam is required at the conclusion of the course. Open book tests are not allowed.
- A maximum of six months can elapse between completion of the didactic portion and the beginning of the lab portion of the course.

Lab – minimum 2 hours of in-person instruction with a maximum ratio of one instructor to 10 students.

LAB ASSESSMENT

Each student must be assessed to determine if they have obtained the necessary skill in measuring techniques, item choice and practice management.

APPENDIX A

Required Knowledge and Skills

At the completion of the course, students should demonstrate the following knowledge and skills.

Knowledge in:

- Musculoskeletal anatomy, including upper limb and spinal
- Neuroanatomy
- Anatomical landmarks
- Tissue characteristics/management
- Post-surgical edema
- Range of motion
- Pathologies related to post-mastectomy care
- Medical terminology
- Breast treatment options
- Lymphatic system
- Interviewing techniques
- Prescription/referral documents
- Documentation and document retention requirements
- Policies and procedures regarding confidential information (HIPAA)
- Roles and responsibilities associated with other healthcare professions
- Reimbursement protocols (e.g., CMS/third party payers)
- Safety procedures and standards (e.g., OSHA, SDS)
- Universal precautions, including sterile techniques and infection control
- Ethical standards regarding proper patient management
- Scope of Practice related to mastectomy fitter credential
- When to refer the patient to other healthcare providers/caregivers
- Post-mastectomy items
- Post-mastectomy item fitting criteria
- Examination techniques
- Measurement tools and techniques
- Care and maintenance of post-mastectomy items
- Item warranty
- Item manufacturer guidelines
- Inventory control and management
- Human development and aging
- Educational opportunities for patients, caregivers and providers
- Community resources and publication
- Federal and state rules, regulations and guidelines (e.g., CMS, FDA, ADA, State licensure)

Skill in:

- Interviewing techniques
- Performing clinical examinations
- Interpretation of physical findings
- Developing a treatment plan
- Adapting treatment plan relative to the patient's functional needs (e.g., patient with stroke, cognitively impaired patients)
- Measuring and fitting post-mastectomy items
- Evaluating fit and function of post-mastectomy items
- Documentation

APPENDIX B

Domains of Practice

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate their ability to accomplish the following:

PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- Review patient's prescription/referral.
- Take a comprehensive patient history, including previous use of a post-mastectomy items, diagnosis, activities of daily living (ADL) and medical history.
- Discuss patient's expectations and goals.
- Perform a diagnosis-specific functional clinical examination that may include observation of chest wall, evaluation of range of motion, manual dexterity, skin integrity and shape/physical characteristics.
- Consult with other healthcare professionals and caregivers about patient's condition.
- Refer patient, if appropriate, to other healthcare professionals (e.g., therapist, physician) for intervention beyond mastectomy fitter's scope of practice.

FORMULATION OF THE TREATMENT PLAN

- Use the assessment results to formulate a treatment plan, including goals and expected outcomes to increase patient comfort, enhance function, prevent deformity (for example; shoulder drop, spinal curvature) and/or improve balance, symmetry and appearance.
- Consult with licensed healthcare prescriber to obtain supporting documentation and/or modify the original prescription, if necessary.
- Identify post-mastectomy items to support treatment plan.
- Communicate to patient and/or caregiver about the recommended treatment plan and any optional plans.
- Inform patient or responsible parties of their financial responsibilities as they pertain to proposed treatment plan.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATMENT PLAN

- Discuss with patient, family and/or caregiver the treatment plan, including post-mastectomy items, benefits/possible risks and timeline for completion.
- Select and prepare appropriate post-mastectomy items in order to implement treatment plan.
- Consult manufacturers guidelines and warranties (e.g. recommended use, limitations, care).
- Assess post-mastectomy items for fit and comfort and make any necessary adjustments.
- Ensure that post-mastectomy items are fit and provided as prescribed.
- Educate/counsel patient and/or caregiver about the use and care of the post-mastectomy items (e.g., wearing schedules, cleaning and other instructions).
- Advise the patient and/or caregivers about their rights and responsibilities.
- Document treatment using established record-keeping techniques to verify implementation of treatment plan.
- Develop/communicate follow-up plan to address any needed adjustments or modifications.

FOLLOW-UP

- Obtain feedback from patient and/or caregiver about the results and overall satisfaction of the treatment plan (for example; tolerance, comfort, benefits, detriments, ability to don and doff, proper usage and function).
- Re-evaluate the patient through a follow-up functional clinical examination that may include review of changes to patient status, shape and physical characteristics.
- Identify need for changes relative to initial treatment goals by assessing fit of post-mastectomy items.
- Modify/adjust post-mastectomy items based on assessment and/or patient/caregiver feedback.
- Educate patient and/or caregiver on proper use of post-mastectomy items relative to modifications/adjustments.
- Document and update all findings and actions and communicate as needed with appropriate healthcare professionals (e.g., referral sources, colleagues, supervisor).

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

- Comply with federal regulations for the delivery of items within the *Mastectomy Fitter Scope of Practice* (e.g., CMS, OSHA, HIPAA).
- Adhere to state regulations for the delivery of items within the *Mastectomy Fitter Scope of Practice* (e.g., Medicaid).
- Comply with policies and procedures regarding universal precautions, including sterile techniques and infection control.
- Comply with requirements for documentation and document retention.

PROMOTION OF COMPETENCY AND ENHANCEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- Participate in continuing education and/or provide such education for other healthcare professionals, patients, caregivers and the community.
- Conduct or participate in product development, post-mastectomy care research, clinical trials and outcome studies.
- Participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of public policy regarding post-mastectomy care (for example, provide testimony/information to legislative/regulatory bodies, serve on committees and regulatory agencies).
- Participate in/with consumer organizations in order to promote competency and enhancement of post-mastectomy profession.