Future Increases in Orthotic & Prosthetic Use Based on Public Health Trends

The numbers tell a compelling story. More and more people are affected by age, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, paralysis, limb difference, or orthopedic impairment.

Patient Population

Orthotic patients need external support to a part of the body because of neuromuscular or skeletal conditions such as cerebral palsy, scoliosis, spina bifida, stroke, plagiocephaly, multiple sclerosis, sports injuries, and more. Other patients who have undergone mastectomies due to breast cancer or have foot conditions due to diabetes, high or flat arches, or repetitive stress also require such support.

Prosthetic patients have limb differences from birth (congenital) or have experienced amputation due to trauma, cancer, infection, or abnormalities in blood vessels or nerves.

Orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) patients can be from any age, size, race, gender, or socioeconomic status, but they all have one thing in common: They need the services of caring and trained O&P professionals.

Roles of an Orthotist and Prosthetist

Orthotists and prosthetists are integral members of the health care and rehabilitation team. Their unique expertise in patient assessment, design, and materials offers patients increased or full mobility and independence. While there are some specialty areas, most professionals treat everyone from children to seniors.

The American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists (the Academy)

The Academy is the premier source of lifelong learning, knowledge, and research for the O&P profession. Dedicated to promoting professionalism and advancing the standards of patient care, the Academy is dedicated to helping members provide the highest level of professionalism and service to their patients. To learn more, please visit www.oandp.org.