

Job Shadowing Guidelines

With the shortage of qualified practitioners, it is critical that everyone does his or her part to help increase awareness of the profession. Fostering relationships with students interested in O&P will benefit you, the student and your patients today and in the future.



- Introduce yourself and let them know you offered this job shadow experience because you think it's important for students to see firsthand the application of what they learn in school and the profession they may pursue. Encourage them to ask questions.
- Get to know the student a bit first including his or her interests and hobbies, any community service they are involved in, career interests, job experience, special skills and what they see as their future education path. Answers to these questions may help you tailor what you focus on during your shadow experience.
- Show the student around your facility, introduce them to your staff and explain the role they each play in assuring quality care for your patients.
- Talk to your patient(s) scheduled for this day to see if they would mind meeting the student and showing them how their device works and even how it is put on and taken off, etc.
- Try to keep the shadowing experience informal by making it less of a presentation and more of a conversation with the student. They will relate so much better. Some of the topics you may want to focus on include:
 - ◆ Your job title and related responsibilities
 - ◆ How you help your workplace meet its goals
 - ◆ What a typical day might entail (although we know O&P does not really have a "typical" day which is a key point to make)
 - ◆ What you like most about your job
 - ◆ Why did you select this type of work?
 - ◆ How much education you have (touch on the different education paths)
 - ◆ Additional training required after you complete your formal education (i.e. residency)