

12/3/24

I started my internship today learning about cancelled appointments and no shows. Many of Becca's patients today didn't show up. This meant she had almost 3 whole hours to do paperwork. How fun! Other than that, Jon saw a patient with a below the knee amputation from a vehicular accident. The appointment was just a check up with her leg. Jon adjusted the height of her prosthetic and I brought her the replacement liner and told her how to put it on. With a few adjustments Jon did with a screwdriver, she was all done. The next patient was a man I had seen previously before with Jon. He is a below the knee amputee. He brought in 3 pairs of legs today, and something was wrong with each of them. One leg was for showering and driving his tractor, one leg was for every day, and one he brought for boating. The boating legs got holes drilled into it so water could drain out the foot. It also had a like leash on it so if it fell off when he was jumping off his boat, the leg wouldn't be lost. The shower leg got the dial replaced. This makes the leg tighter. It was strung through the prosthetic so the replacing part was very tedious and interesting to watch. And the everyday leg got a piece of leather padding replaced. It was really interesting to see how Jon went about fixing all of these three problems. It showed me how problem solving skills are very apparent in this field, because you have to assess the problem on the spot in front of the patient. Overall, it was a great day at my internship!



12/5/24

Today I went into my internship and shadowed Becca. The first appointment was for someone with custom inserts who needed them adjusted. He said that they were causing pressure and hurting his feet. Becca took the inserts down to the lab and we went into the machine room to shave them down. The inserts are made of cork, so it's very easy for clinicians to alter them. She used one of the machines to file down the cork to relieve some pressure. After this, she used a blow dryer to heat up the insert and mold it a bit, providing extra support on the foot. The next two appointments were also for inserts. The second patient had new ones delivered and she tried them on and felt like they were too high, so again, Becca shaved them down according to where the lady's pain was. The last patient was an older man who was getting new inserts. Becca took scans of his feet in order to get those ordered. He also ordered new shoes from the shoe catalog there. While inserts aren't as interesting as seeing prosthetic devices, I still enjoyed today and saw a lot of interesting and educational things. For example, Becca had to do a lot of problem solving type thinking this day because she is listening to

patients talk about what they are feeling in their shoes, and based on that, she has to adjust the problem. This was very fast and on the spot thinking that she did today, and it was cool to see.



12/17/24

Today started with getting to see a brand new patient. I had never met this patient before, but she was a long term patient at Hanger. She was a BK leg amputee and came in for a socket fitting. A socket is the part of the prosthetic that forms to one's residual limb. I shadowed Jon as he began the process of fitting the socket. There is a putty in the bottom of the socket and then when the patient tries it on, the indentations in the putty lets Jon know the depth the patient needs to be in the socket. This is sort of a trial and error process, but eventually the patient was comfortable in the socket. The next appointment was a patient who was trying on a new prosthetic leg. He had been an amputee for several years due to an accident and he was coming in to try on and make sure this new leg fits just right. I shadowed Jon again and this

appointment consisted of many tweaks of the leg to make sure everything was in the right place. It was really interesting to see how the smallest changes in screws or torque can change the entire feel of the prosthetic.

