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Ms. Smith

Internship 4B

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Emily Boyd's Background: The Biography

Emily Boyd is a certified prosthetist, the clinic manager of Greenville Hanger Clinic, and the liaison for telehealth visits with a PM&R physician. She started her journey at Clemson University in the Health Sciences Major with intent to go into physical therapy. It was her last semester of senior year at Clemson when she finally was introduced to the prosthetic industry and was captivated. She then became a certified prosthetist and came to work at Hanger Clinic. She has now worked here for almost 14 years, transitioning from working with patients last Fall, to being the manager and telehealth liaison currently.

While she has no regrets in her career, she does strongly believe that prosthetics should be introduced to more majors at school. In her Health Sciences major, she was taught about dentistry, PAs, PT, etc, but never prosthetics. The prosthetic industry was most talked about in the bioengineering major, which Emily thinks is excessive for a clinician to need. Despite this, she loves her job and says one of her favorite things is “that we can play such a huge part in a patient rehabilitating from an amputation or injury.” She believes this job to be very rewarding, but currently as clinic manager, her least favorite aspects are talking to staff with things like performance management.

When asked about how she and the other clinicians stay up to date with such a fast-paced and advancing field, she told me about an event called Hanger Live. Hanger is a big chain, so

every year around January/February, Hanger holds a huge convention with around 3-4 thousand attendees. It is here where vendors can set up booths with new devices, educating employees around them. Additionally, in order to keep your license, clinicians must complete continuing education units, also known as CEU's. They learn a lot about new technology and methods in these classes.

Emily discussed some of the struggles that come with being a prosthetist as well. She highlighted her love for helping patients and the rewarding nature of the job, but with that, she said it isn't all glamorous. She had a rough batch of patients last fall when she made her decision to stop seeing patients. She found her strengths to be in organization and patient care, compared to the trouble shooting aspect of working with devices. She is now thriving as clinic manager where she works with organizing prosthetic telehealth visits, day to day functions, phone calls, and reviewing documentation. She said her biggest piece of advice would be to shadow a lot, and understand all aspects of this job before you commit. Overall, Emily provided an in-depth insight to the field of prosthetics and her previous and current experiences working at Hanger. She gave detailed and helpful answers that could help guide anyone interested in the field of prosthetics.