

11/7/24

Today was a very short but sweet visit. Mrs. Shew came to visit my internship and my mentor Emily. Ms. Shew had previously been here to visit another student interning here, so mainly Emily, Mrs. Shew, and I just chatted about how I am doing there. I told Mrs. Shew about everything I get to see like castings, check-ups, and fittings. It was about a 30 minute visit and then we took some photos together! I also got a chance to talk one on one with Emily before Ms. Shew came and got my mentor evaluation done. Overall, it was a great visit!



11/19/24

Today was the first time I've been at my internship in two weeks! Sadly, I was sick last week so today is the first day I've been back. I started by shadowing Becca and a SMO(supramalleolar orthotic) case for a kid. The kid was almost 4 years old and was walking on his toes pretty much all the time. Along with the patient's mom, an early interventionist also accompanied them. I only know so much about early interventionists but I talked to her and she told me what she does for a living and it is pretty cool. Early interventionists work really closely with children and families that have or may have developmental disabilities. I told her that I am shadowing and she agreed that shadowing and seeing a job first hand is definitely the best way to get a feel for it. After that Becca took measurements of the patient's feet and filled out a

measurement form. Then the family picked out a dinosaur design to go on the SMO's and Becca sent the form to the company that makes the SMOs. I really enjoyed seeing all the designs that kids can pick from to make this a little more fun for them. After this I had some down time before the next appointment, so while in the office I asked Becca about where she went to school. I already knew she went to Clemson for Bioengineering, but then she told me she went to Eastern Michigan for her prosthetics program and talked to me about the limited options here. She said there are only 13 schools that offer prosthetics programs, this makes things difficult, but also makes this job in high demand.

After this, I joined John to see a woman with a BK amputation. The lock on her device needed to be tightened because she had lost some weight. This made it so her leg was less loose and she felt more supported. This was a really simple fix, but it showed me how detailed the fitting of a device is, and how little factors can have a big effect on the prosthetic. Lastly, I saw one other patient with John. She had been an amputee since she had cancer at age 8. Her story was really inspiring because her chemotherapy was one of the first to be tested on kids and she was on life support for a little while. The doctors said she couldn't have any kids, but she ended up having two. I talked to her for a while as she told me all of this. Her appointment was a check up and her leg was doing really well. On her prosthetic, John had to replace the lock part of her socket because it was loose. She is also coming back next week for a new liner, which has to be ordered.



This is an example of one of the rooms patients are seen in.

11/21/24

Today I joined Becca for two quick appointments. The first was an AFO (ankle foot orthotic) for an older man. His doctor prescribed this hoping it would help support him more to relieve knee pain. Becca first took measurements of his foot and ankle to see if she needed to take a mold. She ended up needing to take a molding, so she got the materials for that. The first material is a bucket of warm water that you mix the cast wrap with. You get the wrap damp and then start wrapping it around the foot until it hardens. After it hardens, she supports the patient's ankle to make indents that will show up in the final boot. It was a cool process to see! After this patient, Becca saw a follow up for a foot orthotic. The woman was feeling a strange ridge at the bottom of her insert, so Becca took it out and inspected it. Becca then sanded it down using the sanding machine in the machine room. This quickly fixed the problem for her! It was interesting

to see Becca use the machines in the machine room because I don't usually see the clinicians in there.

