

Myoelectric Occupational Therapy Training  
Presented by: OTTOBOCK

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is an introductory level course designed for Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, and other rehabilitative healthcare professionals to gain an understanding of basic upper extremity amputation rehabilitation. Upper limb amputations make up approximately 10% of all amputations. Given this small population, many professionals find it challenging to design adequate treatment plans due to unfamiliarity with amputation & prosthetic training.

Common levels of upper limb amputation and clinical assessment will be covered, along with prosthetic options for each level. Body-powered and myoelectric options, along with functional advantages and disadvantages of each, will be addressed. Structured therapy protocols for acute, pre and post-prosthetic delivery will be explained. Differentiation of the therapist and prosthetist roles will be discussed to assure team members know and understand their part in the rehabilitation process. And finally, appropriate outcome measures to use with this population will be introduced to assist with monitoring of progress and documentation of results.

**OBJECTIVES:** Upon course completion, participants will demonstrate ability to:

- Identify two advantages and disadvantages of myoelectric prostheses.
- List three evaluation criteria used in determining an appropriate myoelectric candidate.
- Summarize the three stages of a general therapy program when working with myoelectric prostheses.
- Define three types of myoelectric componentry and their functions.
- Outline the three tiers of the established prosthetic training protocol and how to implement each tier into practice.
- Identify two appropriate outcome measures to monitor progress and enhance training results.

**DURATION: 2.5 Hours (.25 AOTA CEUs)**

1. Overview of Upper Extremity Prosthetics (45 min)
  - A. Amputation Levels
  - B. Clinical Assessment
  - C. Prosthetic Options
  - D. General Myoelectric Therapy Program
2. Introduction to Myoelectrics: EMG Theory (20 min)
3. Overview of Myoelectrics (30 min)
  - A. Clinical Application
  - B. Control Options
  - C. Componentry Orientation
4. Prosthetic Training: 3-Tiered Therapy Protocol (35 min)
  - A. Physical Training
  - B. Controls Training
  - C. Repetitive Drills
  - D. ADL Training
  - E. Outcome Measures & Resources
5. Closing Discussions/ Q&A (10 min)

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**Target Audience:** Clinicians (OTs, COTAs, rehabilitation professionals)

**Level:** Introductory; no pre-requisites required

**Instructional Methods:** Online or in-person classroom training versions are offered

**Presenter Info:** Please see next page

**Credits:** 0.25 AOTA CEUs

**Registration Information:** Online course registration can be completed at <https://shop.ottobock.us/Online-Training#myoelectric>. Live classroom courses are booked by request through [us.education@ottobock.com](mailto:us.education@ottobock.com) and registration will be completed through a provided Eventbrite link. Special needs requests will be accommodated and should be directed to [us.education@ottobock.com](mailto:us.education@ottobock.com).

**Course Completion Requirements:** Quiz and survey completion are required.

**Cancellations & Refunds:**

If you are signed up for a classroom (in-person) version of this course and would like to cancel your registration, please contact the Ottobock Education Team at least 1 week before the course date. To contact the Ottobock Education Team, please either email [us.education@ottobock.com](mailto:us.education@ottobock.com) or call [800-328-4058](tel:800-328-4058) and ask to speak with an Education Coordinator. If you are taking the online version of this course, found at <https://shop.ottobock.us/Online-Training#myoelectric>, no prior cancellation is necessary. There is no registration fee for either the live or online version of this course, therefore no refunds are required.

**Questions:**

For questions, please contact the Ottobock Education Team at [us.education@ottobock.com](mailto:us.education@ottobock.com) or call [800-328-4058](tel:800-328-4058) and ask to speak with an Education Coordinator.

**Provider Information:**

Ottobock uses innovative technology, superior service, and world-class education to help people with physical mobility challenges. Established in 1919 in Germany, Ottobock opened its doors in the U.S. in 1958 and in Canada in 1978. Currently in its third generation as a privately held company, Ottobock offers products and services to help people maintain or regain their freedom of movement.

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**Erica Swanson, CP /MOT, OTR/L**, received her Master’s degree in occupational therapy from the University of North Dakota in 2004. Occupational therapy rotations specialized in orthopedic and neurological disorders at Northern California Rehabilitation Hospital in Redding, CA, as well as mental health at ELMHC, affiliate of the Dept. of Mental Health & Harvard University, Boston, MA. She then obtained her certification in prosthetics from California State University in 2005.

After completing the certificate program at Cal State, Erica completed her prosthetic residency in Colorado Springs at Abilities Unlimited. She worked with a diverse patient population, including pediatrics, adult, and geriatrics. Intermittent experience with athletes was also obtained while working with participants at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. She then spent two years with Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics in Arizona focusing on lower extremity prosthetics, and developed a support group for individuals with amputation. Throughout this time, Erica also worked as an occupational therapist in home health, pediatrics, and adult outpatient settings. In 2008 she moved to MN where she was employed with Fairview Hospital O&P for two years before making the career change into education.

In 2011 Erica joined Ottobock as a lower extremity clinical specialist and gained extensive experience with microprocessor knees and feet. In 2016 she cross-trained into upper limb, and is now working as a Senior Clinical Specialist on the Professional & Clinical Services team. She enjoys the balance of working with practitioners and patients during fittings, providing occupational therapy trainings during the rehabilitation process, and teaching courses to educate healthcare professionals on advanced prosthetic technology.

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