

## HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN ASSESSMENT OF A Gleaner Western Bureau Feature



**REHAB PLUS** 

### Outfitting Ja with quality rehabilitative gear

REHAB PLUS, a privately owned Jamaican company, opened its doors to the Jamaican public 24 years ago.

This organisation came into being after its founder, a registered physiotherapist who had worked in the clinical setting for a number of years, realised how difficult it was to access health-related products and services within the local market. Twenty-four years ago, many of the products, which are readily available today, were scarce and relatively unknown.

Initially, the emphasis was mainly on rehabilitative products and services. As the demands grew, that narrow focus shifted and evolved into a much wider range driven by expanding education and exposure to new possibilities.

In the early years, the two most widely used services were (i) Custom-made spinal bracing for children with scoliosis, combined with a personalised exercise programme, and (ii) pedorthic services ( the use of footwear and orthopaedic devices to treat problems of the feet).

Today, along with a wide array of products, the company provides seven specialised medical services which are dispensed on the basis of prescriptions from doctors and referrals from other qualified health professionals.

From the company's inception, the vision was to develop a strong bond with customers by providing quality service with genuine warmth and caring, and to ensure that every employee of the company, received training which would put them in good stead for any future undertaking. In other words, to train ambassadors for life!

With the passage of time, the needs of our clients mandated that the staff acquire training and expertise in many aspects of health-related services.

Rehab Plus still proudly carries on the tradition of supplying innovative, state-of-the-art, professional medical products to doctors and other health professionals, individuals, hospitals, nursing homes, and pharmacies, throughout Jamaica. This resolve is combined with the commitment to advance patient care and the quality of life for their valued customers, through their unique services.

Now in its 24th year, the company's credentials include:

### 1989

■ The development of a comprehensive programme for managing adolescents with scoliosis. (Scoliosis is a curva-



A Rehab Plus staff member fits a patient with medical stockings.

ture of the spine, which gives the appearance of an 'S' or a 'C').

- The provision of custommade orthopaedic devices namely long leg braces, calipers, spinal braces, and splints for various parts of the body.
- Repairing of artificial limbs and providing accessories for the prosthetic industry.



A patient fits leg braces at Rehab Plus.

### 1990

The provision of a pedorthic department which targets problems of the feet in children, athletes, persons suffering from diabetes, arthritis, and many other painful ailments of the feet. Flat feet, high arched feet, discrepancies in limb length are frequently seen and treated at Rehab Plus.

### 1993

- The training and certification of the company's first orthopaedic shoe technician to enhance the offerings of the pedorthic department.
- The training and certification of orthopaedic fitters of surgical appliances.

### 1996

The American Board Certification of Jamaica's first pedorthist, a health professional trained in the art and science of designing and making foot orthotics (in-shoe supports), and utilising footwear and lower extremity splints to aid in the healing and/or improvement of problems of the feet.

### 1998

The introduction of Jamaica's first computerised Gait Analysis system. This system accurately assesses the pressures on different parts of each foot during walking and standing, thereby guiding the pedorthist or orthotist, in the making of orthotic foot devices as well as the modification of footwear.

### 1999

Commenced outreach programmes in rural hospitals geared at providing free assessments to persons with scoliosis, as well as abnormalities of the feet, and hands.

### 2000

- Certification of additional orthopaedic fitters.
- The establishment of a

department specialising in occupational health through the provision of an industrial physiotherapy approach to work injury prevention programmes.

### 2001

- Certification of two persons in the management of postmastectomy patients (persons who have experienced breast surgery).
- Certification in the assessment and provision of adaptive equipment namely specialised wheelchairs, tilt tables, paediatric walkers and other devices.

### 2003

- The American Board Certification of Jamaica's second pedorthist.
- Provision of Jamaica's first locked nail system aimed at reducing the patients' hospital stay and enhancing speedy recovery of fractures of the long bones.
- The establishment of a loaner scheme for surgical trauma instruments in some of the island's public and private hospitals.

### 2007

Facilitated the launch of the Scolisis Club of Jamaica, a support group for children with scoliosis, as well as their families.

### 2010

Rebranded the orthotic and prosthetic division of the company and formed Jamaica Orthotics Pedorthics and Prosthetics (JOPP) which focuses on providing artificial limbs for upper and lower extremities – from assessment and manufacturing through to rehabilitation.

The renewed vision of Rehab Plus extends to all the Caribbean territories, but the primary call comes from our home base, where the privilege of serving an appreciative public, brings truth and meaning to the reprise Jamaica Land We Love.

Rehab Plus stands committed to training and professionalism of the highest order. Our commitment to service is exemplified by the strength of our belief in and respect for people from all walks of life.

# "COMMITTED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS" We serve as the link between doctors, other health professionals and you, our valued customers. \*\*The Pain Professional Plus Can Help Plus Can Help Professional Professional Plus Can Help Professional Pro

We Offer a Wide Panne of Producte