

Criteria for Prosthetic (artificial limb) Provision for Trans Femoral (above knee) Amputees

If you are able to achieve all of the following, we would consider you to be suitable for prosthetic rehabilitation:

1. Be independent in using your wheelchair, in order to move around, and also be able to demonstrate safe wheelchair drills – e.g. wheelchair positioning, use of seatbelt and brakes, removal of and reinstating stump board and footplates.
2. Transfer independently from wheelchair to bed/chair/toilet and back using a standing pivot transfer. This is important to achieve because using an above knee prosthesis will not help you to do so.
3. Push up from sitting in the wheelchair to standing independently within the parallel bars, or other suitably supportive surface.
4. Have independent standing balance within the parallel bars or other suitably supportive surface for 10 minutes minimum. Not only will you need to be able to do this in order for the prosthetist to measure or cast your residual limb, but you will also need to do this whenever you don or doff your prosthesis, which could include a belt and buckle to hold it in place.
5. Hip flexion contracture under 25°, if your hip does not move well and becomes stiff and contracted, you will be too unstable to use a prosthesis to stand on.
6. Demonstrate the ability to follow instructions, process new information and remember it over a period of time. This ensures that you will be safe whilst learning to use the prosthesis, and to become a proficient prosthetic user.
7. With the use of an Early Walking Aid mobilise within the parallel bars. You should be able to achieve approximately 6-10 lengths of the parallel bars. This demonstrates your general level of fitness, it takes a lot more energy to walk with an above knee prosthesis in comparison to before your amputation.

N.B. If you are considered to be unsuitable for prosthetic rehabilitation, it does not mean that you will be discharged from our services completely. You may wish to consider a cosmetic prosthesis, in order for your body image to be restored, if this is the case, please speak to your Prosthetist, or any member of our team.

Supporting people to be Safe, Well and at Home

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