



This brief summary is a tool you can provide to your physician to explain (1) why he/she is a critical member of your prosthetic rehabilitation team and (2) how he/she can help you.

We suggest you print two copies of this document and provide your physician **and** his/her office administrator one each for use as a resource, both when examining you and when documenting your prosthetic needs.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PHYSICIAN IN CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH LIMB LOSS

### 1. NO TREATMENT CAN OCCUR WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL

- In order for your patients with limb loss to receive a prosthesis or any prosthetic component, prosthetists must first obtain a prescription from you.
- Without your prescription, your patients cannot receive this medically-necessary prosthetic treatment.
- Bottom line: YOU are the gatekeeper for the patient's prosthetic care, despite the fact that the prosthetist is the health care professional providing it.

### 2. COORDINATED CARE HELPS YOUR PATIENTS

- Your insight into the patient's physical condition, comorbidities and functional potential is a critical component in developing a holistic and effective prosthetic treatment plan.
- Without your input, the likelihood of patients receiving a prosthesis that fails to address ALL of their health needs increases.
- Payers are increasingly refusing to pre-authorize treatment if they don't see consistent clinical conclusions documented in both your medical records and the prosthetist's.
- Pre-authorization denials prevent your patients with limb loss from receiving the required prosthetic intervention at the time they need it.

### 3. THE KEY THINGS PAYERS WANT TO SEE IN YOUR RECORDS

- Documentation that your patients with limb loss have the (1) desire AND (2) physical capacity to successfully use a prosthesis.
- Payers require you to assess your patients' functional level. There are 4 that could apply:
  - K1 (limited and unlimited household ambulator)
  - K2 (limited community ambulator)
  - K3 (unlimited community ambulator)
  - K4 (ability or potential that exceeds basic ambulation skills, exhibiting high impact, stress or energy levels)
- Assessment of patient's physical and cognitive capabilities
- Status of patient's residual limb
- Other medical problems/comorbidities

#### 4. YOUR OPTIONS

- Document all of the information listed above yourself.
- Refer the patient to either another physician (e.g., PM&R specialist) or PT to conduct the assessment for you. If you choose this route,
  - Make sure that the other physician or PT forwards their findings to you **AND**
  - Sign, date, and indicate your agreement or disagreement with their findings on the report itself **OR**
  - Enter a brief note in your records reflecting the fact that you reviewed the report and indicating your agreement or disagreement with its findings.