



Dear Doctor:

The purpose of this letter is to update you about what Medicare now requires for me to obtain necessary prosthetic care from my prosthetist. While Medicare has always required a physician prescription, recent guidance makes clear that your notes regarding my condition are a key element for my claim to be successfully processed. Without detailed notes and findings from you, Medicare will refuse to pay for this medically necessary prosthetic care and my prosthetist will be unable to deliver me the item(s) I need.

Medicare has specifically identified the items that must be in your medical record to support the prescription. Medicare has further made clear that (1) this documentation cannot be contained solely in the prosthetist's records, and (2) the prosthetist cannot create that documentation for you (i.e., by sending you a form that you initial and insert in your records - Medicare considers this "ancillary to" the physician records). The required documentation includes:

- 1) A complete assessment of my physical and cognitive capabilities (be sure to include symptoms limiting ambulation or dexterity, diagnosis-causing symptoms or co-morbidities affecting ambulation).
- 2) A description of my pre- and post-amputation capabilities in a way that Medicare can see from reading your record a full picture of my functional abilities and limitations on a typical day. Please include as much objective data as possible.
- 3) Clinical notes with clear data and observations to support classifying my rehabilitation potential using Medicare's K level system (0 through 4). The record must document my current functional capabilities and my expected functional potential, including an explanation for the difference, if any, between the two.

Level 0 - Does not have the ability or potential to ambulate or transfer safely with or without assistance and prosthesis does not enhance quality of life or mobility. This level does not warrant a prescription for a prosthesis.

Level 1 - Has the ability or potential to use a prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence. This is typical of a household ambulator.

Level 2 - Has the ability or potential for ambulation with the ability to traverse low-level environmental barriers such as curbs, stairs or uneven surfaces. Typical of the limited community ambulator.

Level 3 - Has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence. Typical of the community ambulator who has the ability to traverse most environmental barriers and may have vocational, therapeutic or exercise activity that demands prosthetic utilization beyond simple locomotion.

Level 4 - Has the ability or potential for prosthetic ambulation that exceeds basic ambulation skills, exhibiting high impact, stress or energy levels. Typical of the prosthetic demands of the child, active adult or athlete.

Thank you in advance for helping me. While this documentation may be more extensive than what you've historically recorded in my medical record, it is now required by Medicare for me to get the prosthetic care and treatment that I need.

Very Truly Yours,

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