



LOWER LIMB PROSTHESES

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Standard Written Order that includes:

Beneficiary's name or Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)

General description of the item

The description can be either a general description (e.g., wheelchair or hospital bed), a HCPCS code, a HCPCS code narrative, or a brand name/model number

For supplies – In addition to the description of the base item, the DMEPOS order/prescription may include all concurrently ordered supplies that are separately billed (List each separately)

For equipment - In addition to the description of the base item, the SWO may include all concurrently ordered options, accessories or additional features that are separately billed or require an upgraded code (List each separately).

Quantity to be dispensed, if applicable

Order Date

Treating Practitioner Name or NPI

Treating Practitioner's signature

Practitioner's signature on the written order meets CMS Signature Requirements

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6698.pdf>

Proof of Delivery

Beneficiary's name

Delivery address

A description of the item(s) being delivered. The description can be either a narrative description (e.g., lightweight wheelchair base), a HCPCS code, the long description of a HCPCS code, or a brand name/model number.

Quantity delivered

Date delivered

Beneficiary (or designee) signature

**NOTE:** POD may be incorporated into the prosthetist's chart, and not a separate document, as long as all of the above elements are present in the document. This includes a signature from either the beneficiary or a designee accepting delivery.

Treating practitioner's records assessing the beneficiary's physical and cognitive capabilities (points are not all-inclusive and should be tailored to the individual beneficiary's condition)

History of the present condition(s) and past medical history that is relevant to functional deficits

Symptoms limiting ambulation or dexterity

Diagnoses causing these symptoms

Other co-morbidities relating to ambulatory problems or impacting the use of a new prosthesis

What ambulatory assistance (cane, walker, wheelchair, caregiver) is currently used (either in addition to the prosthesis or prior to amputation)

Description of activities of daily living and how impacted by deficit(s)

Physical examination that is relevant to functional deficits

Weight and height, including any recent weight loss/gain

Cardiopulmonary examination



- Musculoskeletal examination
  - Arm and leg strength and range of motion
- Neurological examination
  - Gait
  - Balance and coordination

**The treating practitioner's and/or prosthetist's medical records document:**

- The beneficiary's current functional capabilities and his/her expected functional potential, including an explanation for the difference, if that is the case.
- The beneficiary will reach or maintain a defined functional state within a reasonable period of time.
- The beneficiary is motivated to ambulate.

**Claims for Feet:**

- External keel SACH foot (L5970) or single axis ankle/foot (L5974).
  - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 1 or above.
- Flexible-keel foot (L5972) or multiaxial ankle/foot (L5978).
  - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 2 or above.
- Microprocessor controlled ankle foot system (L5973), energy storing foot (L5976), dynamic response foot with multi-axial ankle (L5979), flex foot system (L5980), flex-walk system or equal (L5981), or shank foot system with vertical loading pylon (L5987).
  - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 3 or above.

**Claims for Knees:**

- High activity knee control frame (L5930)
    - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 4.
  - Fluid, pneumatic, or electronic/microprocessor knee (L5610, L5613, L5614, L5722-L5780, L5814, L5822-L5840, L5848, L5856, L5857, L5858)
    - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 3 or above.
  - Other knee systems (L5611, L5616, L5710 – L5718, L5810 – L5812, L5816, L5818)
    - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 1 or above.
- HCPSC code L5859 is only covered if all the following criteria are met:
- Has a microprocessor (swing and stance phase type (L5856)) controlled (electronic) knee; and
  - K3 functional level only; and
  - Has a documented comorbidity of the spine and/or sound limb affecting hip extension and/or quadriceps function that impairs K-3 level function with the use of a microprocessor-controlled knee alone; and
  - Is able to make use of a product that requires daily charging; and
  - Is able to understand and respond to error alerts and alarms indicating problems with the function of the unit.

**Claims for Ankles:**

- Axial rotation unit (L5982 – L5986)
  - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 2 or above

**Claims for Hips:**

- Pneumatic or hydraulic polycentric hip joint (L5961)
  - The medical record supports that the beneficiary's functional level is 3 or above.

**Claims for Test (Diagnostic) Sockets:**

- Claims for more than 2 test (diagnostic) sockets (L5618 – L5628)
  - There is documentation in the medical record that justifies the need.

**Claims for a Prosthesis Delivered to a Hospital or SNF:**

The prosthesis will be medically necessary after the beneficiary is discharged; and  
The prosthesis was delivered no more than two days prior to discharge; and  
The prosthesis is not needed for inpatient treatment or rehabilitation, but is left in the room for the beneficiary to take home.

**Claims for Replacement of Prosthesis or Major Component (Foot, Ankle, Knee, Socket):**

Claims involving the replacement of a prosthesis or major component (foot, ankle, knee, socket) must include the following documentation:

New written order

The reason for replacement must be documented by the treating physician, either on the order or in the medical record, and must fall under one of the following:

- A change in the physiological condition of the patient resulting in the need for a replacement. Examples include but are not limited to, changes in beneficiary weight, changes in the residual limb, beneficiary functional need changes; or,
- An irreparable change in the condition of the device, or in a part of the device resulting in the need for a replacement; or,
- The condition of the device, or the part of the device, requires repairs and the cost of such repairs would be more than 60 percent of the cost of a replacement device, or, as the case may be, of the part being replaced.

The prosthetist must retain documentation of the prosthesis or prosthetic component replaced, the reason for replacement, and a description of the labor involved irrespective of the time since the prosthesis was provided to the beneficiary.

**NOTE:** Adjustments and repairs of prostheses and prosthetic components are covered under the original order for the prosthetic device.

**Billing Reminders**

1. Prosthetic claims for knees, feet, ankles, and hips must be submitted with modifiers K0 – K4, indicating the expected beneficiary functional level.
2. The right (RT) and left (LT) modifiers must be used with prosthesis codes. When the same code for prostheses, sockets, or components for bilateral amputees are billed on the same date of service bill each item on two separate claim lines using the RT and LT modifiers and 1 unit of service (UOS) on each claim line. Do not use the RTLTL modifier on the same claim line and billed with 2 UOS. Claim lines billed without the RT and/or LT modifiers, or with RTLTL on the same claim line and 2 UOS, will be rejected as incorrect coding.
3. Replacement components (except sockets) should be billed using the code for the component and modifier RB.
4. The following items are included in the reimbursement for a prosthesis and are not separately billable to Medicare:
  - Evaluation of the residual limb and gait
  - Fitting of the prosthesis
  - Cost of base component parts and labor contained in HCPCS base codes
  - Repairs due to normal wear or tear within 90 days of delivery
  - Adjustments of the prosthesis or the prosthetic component made when fitting the prosthesis or component and for 90 days from the date of delivery when the adjustments are not necessitated by changes in the residual limb or the beneficiary's functional abilities.
5. Do not submit a claim to the DME MAC if the prosthesis is provided to a beneficiary during an inpatient hospital stay prior to the day of discharge and the beneficiary uses the prosthesis for medically necessary inpatient treatment or rehabilitation.
6. Do not submit a claim to the DME MAC if the prosthesis is provided to a beneficiary during a



Medicare Part A covered SNF stay prior to the day of discharge and the beneficiary uses the prosthesis for medically necessary inpatient treatment or rehabilitation.

- 7. With the exception of items described by specific HCPCS codes, no separate payment is available for real time gait analysis or other components/features billed in conjunction with a microprocessor controlled knee.

Functional Levels

<b>Level 0</b>	Does not have the ability or potential to ambulate or transfer safely with or without assistance and a prosthesis does not enhance their quality of life or mobility.
<b>Level 1</b>	Has the ability or potential to use prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence. Typical of the limited and unlimited household ambulator.
<b>Level 2</b>	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.
<b>Level 3</b>	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.
<b>Level 4</b>	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.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **DME MAC Supplier Manual**
  - **JB:** <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/pubs/supman/index.html>
  - **JC:** <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/pubs/supman/index.html>
- **Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and Policy Articles**
  - **JB:** <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/coverage/lcdinfo.html>
  - **JC:** <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/coverage/LCDinfo.html>
- **Condition of Payment Required Prior Authorization Program**
  - **JB:** [https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/llp\\_prior\\_auth.html](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/llp_prior_auth.html)
  - **JC:** [https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/llp\\_prior\\_auth.html](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/llp_prior_auth.html)
- **DMEPOS Consolidated Billing Tool:**
  - **JB:** [https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/llp\\_prior\\_auth.html](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/llp_prior_auth.html)
  - **JC:** [https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/llp\\_prior\\_auth.html](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/llp_prior_auth.html)

**NOTE:** It is expected that the beneficiary’s medical records will reflect the need for the care provided. These records are not routinely submitted to the DME MAC but must be available upon request. Therefore, while it is not a requirement, it is a recommendation that suppliers obtain and review the appropriate medical records and maintain a copy in the beneficiary’s file. As a reminder, Supplier-produced records, even if signed by the prescribing physician, and attestation letters (e.g. letters of medical necessity) are deemed not to be part of a medical record for Medicare payment purposes.

DISCLAIMER

This document was prepared as an educational tool and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This checklist may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either written law or regulations. Suppliers are encouraged to consult the *DME MAC Supplier Manual* and the Local Coverage Determination/Policy Article for full and accurate details concerning policies and regulations.