

Policy References: [Local Coverage Determination Lower Limb Prostheses \(L33787\)](#) and [Policy Article \(A52496\)](#)

Documentation References: [Standard Documentation Requirements Policy Article \(PA\) A55426](#)

The treating clinician must complete the following items:

- [Standard Written Order \(SWO\)](#)
- Medical record documentation requirements (see below)

Medical Documentation

A lower limb prosthesis is covered when all of the following have been met:

- Documentation of the beneficiary's current and potential functional abilities, including an explanation for any difference, as determined based on the reasonable expectations of the treating clinician, considering factors including, but not limited to:
 - Past history (including prior prosthetic use if applicable); **and**
 - Current condition including the status of the residual limb and nature of other medical problems; **and**
 - Desire to ambulate
- Clinical assessments of beneficiary rehabilitation potential is based on the following functional classification levels. This assessment must be clearly documented and retained in the treating clinician's records. The simple entry of a K modifier is not sufficient. There must be information about the beneficiary's history and current condition which supports the designation of the functional level:
 - Level 0:** 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.
 - Level 1:** Has the ability or potential to use a prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence. Typical of a limited and unlimited 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 a community ambulator.
 - Level 3:** Has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence. Typical of a 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.
- Clinical documentation of functional need for any technologic or design feature of a given type of prosthesis.

The content of this document was prepared as an educational tool and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Use of this document is not intended to take the place of either written law or regulations. Suppliers are reminded to review the Local Coverage Determination and Policy Article for specific documentation guidelines.