Our medical, technical and therapeutic services are offered to:

- Evaluate needs
- Design custom devices
- Re-fit and adjust the item
- Perform gait analysis
- Recommend physical therapy intervention
- Communicate with the primary care provider to assist with ongoing medical care.

Our Mission

The Mission of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service is to provide you with the highest quality health care in a courteous and compassionate manner to enhance your quality of life. We are committed to working with your providers to improve your function and increase your activities of daily living.

Eligibility

Basic eligibility for Prosthetic items is that you are enrolled in the VA system and your provider requests an item and gives a proper medical justification for the item. Service-connection does not have a role in eligibility except for certain programs.

Programs

Automobile Adaptive Equipment Program

This program provides equipment and training necessary for certain service-connected patients to enter, exit and operate a motor vehicle, once they have been awarded an Automobile Grant by VBA (Form 4502) and completed Driver's Training with an approved driver's evaluator. If a patient does not meet the service-connected criteria to operate a vehicle (loss of or loss of use of a limb or ankylosis of one or both hips or knees), they can still be approved for equipment to enter and exit a vehicle. There are further criteria and exceptions. Please see your local Prosthetics Chief for more information.

Home Improvement & Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant Program

The HISA grant is provided for the improvements and structural alterations a veteran needs to access his home and essential bathroom facilities. Examples include ramps, railings, lowered countertops, flooring, widened doorways and handicap accessible bathrooms. The one-time monetary limit ($1,200 for non-service-connected patients and $4,100 for service-connected patients) is dependent upon the veteran's service-connected rating.

Clothing Allowance Program

The Clothing Allowance Payment is paid annually to veterans with a service-connected condition who, because of the condition, must wear a device that causes the outer clothing to wear or tear; or if a veteran uses topical ointments prescribed by a VA provider for a service-connected skin condition that causes irreparable damage to outer garments.

Services

Hearing Aids & Eyeglasses

Hearing Aids are provided to patients who are at least 10% service-connected or POWs, Purple Heart recipients, Housebound (HB) and/or Aid & Attendance (A&A) recipients or those enrolled in vocational rehabilitation. Exceptions include patients with multiple sclerosis, ear diseases and those who are rated 0% for hearing loss.*

Eyeglasses are provided to patients who are at least 10% service-connected or POWs, Purple Heart recipients, HB and/or A&A recipients. Exceptions include patients who have/have had a stroke, diabetes, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, cataract surgery or who need eyeglasses to actively participate in their medical treatment.*

*There are further criteria and exceptions. Please see your local Prosthetics Chief for more information.

Prosthetic & Orthotic Devices

Prosthetic appliances, or prostheses, are external items that are custom fabricated and fitted to patients who have had an amputation of a lower or upper limb. Prescriptions are developed in the VA Amputee Clinic by a multidisciplinary team consisting of a Physician, Prosthetist, Therapist and Prosthetic Representative. Each prescription is carefully formulated to the patient's specific needs, taking into consideration factors that include vocation, recreational needs (swimming, skiing, archery, etc.), physical health in general and home environment. Based on this information, prostheses can be designed, often using new and emerging technologies as they become available. Some examples include:

- microprocessor knees (C-Leg, Rheo Knee, Power Knee),
- microprocessor ankles (Proprio Foot),
- myoelectric and electric upper limb components.

For more information, please contact:

Prosthetics Central Office: (202) 254-0440
Veterans Healthcare Benefits: (877) 222-8387
Veterans Benefits: (800) 827-1000

In addition to what is mentioned in this brochure, some other items and programs Prosthetics supports through the service teams are:

- **Artificial Limbs** (C-Legs, myoelectric arms, etc.)
- **Blind Aids** (talking watches/alarm clocks, magnifiers, CCTVs, etc.)
- **Communication devices** (GPS systems, medical alert devices, Environmental Control Units, etc.)
- **Computers for the Blind and/or Disabled**
- **Durable Medical Equipment (DME)**
- **Home Respiratory Therapy including Home Oxygen, CPAPs, BiPAPS, Nebulizers**
- **Hospital Beds**
- **Items for Daily Living** (blood pressure monitors, TENS Units, reachers, long-handled sponges, canes, crutches, walkers, etc.)
- **Orthotic devices** (shoes, braces, inserts, compression stockings, etc.)
- **Patient Lifts** (wheelchair, seat, etc.)
- **Recreational/Rehabilitative Equipment** (swimming legs, handcycles, archery arms, Braille dominoes, etc.)
- **Surgical Implants** (pacemakers, ICDs, Orthopedic hips and knees, ocular lenses, cochlear implants, etc.)
- **Wheelchairs** (manual, powered, iBOTs, scooters, etc.)

Department of Veterans Affairs

What to Expect from your VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service

Veterans Health Administration