



**Medicare Requirements**  

---

**for**  
**Prosthetic and Orthotic**  
**Services**



**General Clinical**

**Documentation Required**

**for**

**Prosthetic Services**



# Prescriptions

---

- The State of Texas requires a prescription for patient consultation that includes...
  - A diagnosis appropriate for the requested service.
  - ICD-9 code reflecting the patient's diagnosis.
  - Physician/practitioner signature and date.



# What documentation is needed?

---

- The patient's medical record must contain sufficient information about the patient's medical condition to **substantiate the necessity for...**
  - The type and quantity of items
  - For the frequency of use or replacement (if applicable)



# Documenting necessity for artificial limbs

---

- The physician's medical records must demonstrate that the prosthetic device is reasonable and necessary.
- Documentation is needed of...
  - Patient's classification level (Level 0-4)
  - Current functional capabilities
  - Expected functional capabilities

# Documenting necessity for artificial limbs

---

- Documenting functional capabilities should include (but is not limited to)...
  - History of present condition(s) and relevant past medical history
  - Symptoms/diagnoses affecting ambulation or dexterity
  - Other co-morbidities relating to ambulation or impacting the use of a prosthesis
  - What ambulatory assistive device (cane, walker, wheelchair, caregiver, etc) is currently used



# Documenting necessity for artificial limbs

---

- Description of current and potential activities of daily living and how impacted by deficit(s)
- Physical examination relevant to functional deficit(s)
- Weight and height, noting any recent weight gain/loss
- Assessment of upper and lower extremity strength and range of motion
- Assessment of gait, balance and coordination potential
- Patient's motivation to ambulate/use prosthesis



# Signature Requirements

---

- Medicare requires that all orders and medical records must be authenticated by the author using...
  - A **legible** handwritten full signature OR...
  - A signature above the typed name of the physician OR...
  - Electronic signature
- Stamped signatures are **NOT** acceptable.





# Signature Requirements

---

- If a signature is illegible on an order or medical record...
  - A signature log may be provided by the physician/practitioner which includes the **printed name of the author** and the **full signature or initials** that appear on the document.
  - Listing the credentials of the author is encouraged.



# Signature Requirements

---

- If a signature is missing on an order, the order will be disregarded and the claim denied.
- If a signature is missing from medical records, the physician/practitioner may provide an **attestation to verify the entry**.
  - Physicians/practitioners should not add late signatures to medical records, but instead use the attestation process.



# References

---

- [www.cgsmedicare.com](http://www.cgsmedicare.com)
- [www.noridianmedicare.com/dme](http://www.noridianmedicare.com/dme)
- [www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp)



---

**Questions??**