

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Responses to
Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs
May 2022 Recommendations**

1. VHA Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthic Clinical Services

The VHA Amputation System of Care (ASoC) should continue to support clinical programming and training to assure Veterans with amputation have access to the most advanced, commercially available rehabilitation prosthetic technologies, and should proactively prepare for capacity and capability to meet the demands of an aging population.

The VHA Amputation System of Care will develop a plan to enhance educational resources for Veterans with amputation, and in the context of Whole Health, provide opportunities to explore both supervised and self-managed wellness programs such as exercise and nutrition programs.

The VHA Amputation System of Care Program should continue to expand, and to provide training and support for the successful integration and use of advanced rehabilitation and prosthetic technologies such as osseointegration. The Amputation System of Care Program Office will determine, based on the availability of required resources, the number of osseointegration sites targeted for expansion of the program through FY24.

VHA should develop this plan over the next 12 months and report progress to the Committee during their meeting in May 2023.

VA Response: Concur. Proactive planning to enhance educational resources and wellness opportunities, as well as a plan for osseointegration site expansion, will ensure the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is prepared to meet the demands of an aging Veteran population within the Amputation System of Care. VHA Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services will lead the implementation of the action plan to meet the progress report due date of May 2023.

2. VHA Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthic Clinical Services

Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthic Clinical Services (OPPCS) is a clinical service with the mission and purpose of providing clinical rehabilitative care and should be aligned under a clinical service at VA Medical Centers (VAMC). Currently, 5 VAMC sites have successfully realigned OPPCS to a clinical service and at least 6 more sites are in-process. The Committee recommends that OPPCS develop a plan to pursue realignment of all VAMC OPPCS teams across the enterprise.

VHA should develop this plan for realignment over the next 12 months and report progress to the Committee during their meeting in May 2023.

VA Response: Concur. VHA will develop a plan to realign all VA medical center Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthic clinical services under a clinical service across the enterprise. VHA Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthic Clinical Services National Program Office will lead the implementation of the action plan to meet the progress report due date of May 2023.