

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 7
TITLE: PROSTHETIC SERVICES /DEVICES

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.900 and 17.901

RELATED REFERENCES: M-1, Part 1, Chapter 15; M-2, Part VIII, Chapter 3

I. DEFINITION

A prosthetic device is an artificial substitute for a missing body part such as artificial limbs and eyes.

II. POLICY

Prosthetic services/devices are covered when medically necessary for covered condition(s) and when provided by VA Prosthetics Service or other authorized providers.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. The selection of an appropriate device will depend on fit, functional performance, and patient acceptance. The physical evaluation will include, as applicable, residual limb length and circumference, active range of motion, terminal device grasp force, and mechanical range.

B. Replacement of a prosthesis is covered when required due to growth or a change in the patient's condition. Replacement purchases will be reviewed for medical necessity. The claim should include:

1. physician's prescription for replacement, and
2. the reason the replacement is needed.

C. Surgical implants that have Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval are covered.

D. A myoelectrical prosthesis is covered as an alternative to conventional prosthesis with a hook.

E. VA Prosthetics Service will be utilized whenever possible.

F. Voice prostheses to include mechanical hand-held voice prosthesis are covered when medically necessary for the covered condition(s).

G. Prosthetic devices with an FDA-approved investigational device exemption (IDE) and categorized by the FDA as non-experimental/investigational will be considered for coverage. Coverage is dependent upon the device meeting all other requirements of the law and upon the beneficiary meeting FDA approved IDE study protocols.

H. Purchase is limited to one initial device per missing body part.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

Prosthetic devices categorized by the FDA as experimental/investigational (unproven).

END OF POLICY