

Private prostheses

What you will need to consider



Information for patients

Prosthetics



There is a wide selection of prosthetic componentry available to NHS patients and the prosthetic clinical team at the M&SRC will assess everyone on an individual basis to prescribe the most appropriate prostheses based on your clinical and functional needs within the limits of NHS commissioning.

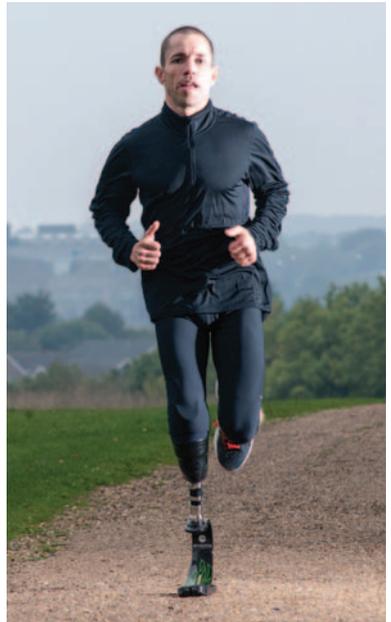
However, some patients may find that what is available to them within the NHS does not meet their additional needs and may consider the option of purchasing a prosthesis privately.

If you choose to purchase a private prosthesis, please be aware that after you have the prosthesis, the ongoing costs can be expensive. It is important that you understand that the NHS will not provide any financial contribution or maintenance support for private prostheses. This includes ongoing care and maintenance associated with the prosthesis and any consumables such as silicone liners, suspensions sleeves, cotton or gel socks, cosmetic gloves, chargers, batteries etc.



Sports limbs, myoelectric multi-grip hands (bionic), high definition silicone covers

Please be aware that prostheses such as specialist sports limbs, multi-grip myoelectric upper limb prostheses or high definition silicone covers still remain outside of NHS commissioning and would not be supported within the NHS prosthetics service.



MPK prosthesis for trans-femoral (above knee) amputation levels

Previously, the inability to obtain prostheses with microprocessor controlled knees (MPKs) via the NHS, led some patients to make the decision to purchase this type of prosthesis privately.

However, following changes to commissioning arrangements at the end of 2016, microprocessor controlled knees (MPK) are now available via the NHS for those who meet the criteria laid out in the Clinical Commissioning Policy entitled, 'Microprocessor Controlled Prosthetic Knees'.

If you previously purchased a prosthesis with an MPK before the changes to the commissioning arrangements and you also meet the user criteria outlined in the commissioning policy, it may be possible for the NHS prosthetic service to "adopt" the MPK prosthesis and provide you with ongoing NHS treatment and maintenance of this limb.

At the point in time when this MPK limb is outside of its warranty period or beyond economic repair you would be re-assessed against NHS England's policy and criteria and fitted, if appropriate, with a suitable MPK prosthesis.

Please be aware that there are financial limits to the component choices available in this policy which may mean the current specification of your MPK may not be matched. If you have an MPK and are unsure if this applies to you please speak to your Prosthetist in the first instance.

Please note NHS England would only support provision of one MPK per amputation site per patient regardless of how they are funded (i.e. a patient would not be provided with an NHS funded MPK if wearing and using a privately funded MPK limb)

Lastly, if you have an insurance plan which covers part or all of the costs of a prosthetic device, you may still prefer to obtain a prosthesis via the private sector. We advise, that in these circumstances, you liaise closely with your insurance company to understand the types of devices and services that will be covered under your policy. It is important to know the limitations and exclusions in your policy. It is also important to remember that the many changes which occur in the residual limb following limb loss that can lead to shrinking of your residual limb. This may require socket changes, liners, or even a different device which will contribute to additional and ongoing costs.



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