



Advanced Prosthetic Sockets

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VA Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service

- VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) is the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world.
- VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) now has more than 60 locations for the custom fabrication and fitting of the latest state-of-the-art Orthotic & Prosthetic (O&P) components.
- VA also has over 600 local contracts with accredited O&P providers to insure access to care is near the Veterans home.

“There are over 44,000 Veterans with Major Amputations who receive prosthetic care in the VA. The majority have lost their leg .”



Prosthetic Legs in VA

- 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.
- VA has been at the forefront of providing the most appropriate prosthetic limbs to Veterans.
- Prescriptions are developed in the VA Amputee Clinic by a multidisciplinary team consisting of:
 - a Physician,
 - a Prosthetist,
 - a Therapist, and
 - a Prosthetic Representative.
- 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.

NOTE: *Examples do not imply commercial endorsement by VA*



Prosthetic Legs in VA

Many surveys have shown that amputees are not satisfied with their sockets.

Problems reported include:

- Socket fit as the limb swells or shrinks
- Temperature that produces discomfort
- Sweating – moisture accumulation
- Skin breakdown or sores
- Pain (caused by socket)

There is current and past Federal support for prosthetic development. Examples of agencies that have funded this research include:

- DARPA – Revolutionizing Prosthetics
- SBIR/STTR (TATRC, NIH, NSF, NIDRR)
- VA – Merit Review and Centers of Excellence



Questions and Answers

- All questions with their answers from this webinar will be posted on both FedBizOpps (www.fbo.gov) and the VAI2 website (www.va.gov/vai2)

