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Dear Physician:

For a lower limb prosthesis to be covered by Medicare, all applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements must be met. Medicare requires a physical evaluation of the patient, and **the following bullet points must be included in the physician's chart note** (Medicare does not consider a letter part of the medical record). Please fax any Medicare compliant chart notes to our office.

The physician must document AND DISCUSS the following:

1. Patient is motivated to ambulate; **and**
2. Patient's activities prior to amputation; **and**
3. Patient's current medical condition; **and**
4. Status of residual limb; **and**
5. Nature and extent of functional limitations; **and**
6. Patient's realistic ambulation potential with prosthesis within a reasonable period of time.

Clinical assessments of beneficiary rehabilitation potential must be based on the following classification levels:

- **Level 0:** Does not have the ability or potential to ambulate or transfer safely with or without assistance and a prosthesis does not enhance their quality of life or mobility.
- **Level 1:** Has the ability or potential to use a prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence. Typical of the limited and unlimited household ambulator.
- **Level 2:** Has the ability or potential for ambulation with the ability to traverse low level environmental barriers such as curbs, stairs or uneven surfaces. Typical of the limited community ambulator.
- **Level 3:** Has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence. Typical of the community ambulator who has the ability to traverse most environmental barriers and may have vocational, therapeutic, or exercise activity that demands prosthetic utilization beyond simple locomotion.
- **Level 4:** Has the ability or potential for prosthetic ambulation that exceeds basic ambulation skills, exhibiting high impact, stress, or energy levels. Typical of the prosthetic demands of the child, active adult, or athlete.

Thank you, and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.