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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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FACT SHEET FOR AMPUTATION SYSTEM OF CARE

The Veterans Health Administration Amputation System of Care (ASoC) is an integrated, national health care delivery system that provides patient-centered, lifelong, holistic care and care coordination for the Veteran and Servicemember with an amputation. The ASoC provides care for over 30,000 individuals with limb loss, including those with amputations secondary to trauma-related injuries from military conflicts. Through the provision of quality rehabilitation and prosthetic care, the Amputation System of Care minimizes disability and enables the highest level of social, vocational, and recreational re-integration.

ASoC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The ASoC is founded on a tiered system of care across all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities with 7 Regional Amputation Centers, 15 Polytrauma Amputation Network Sites and over 100 fully integrated amputation rehabilitation clinic teams.

Clinical Practice Guidelines, jointly developed by the VA and Department of Defense (DoD), ensure evidence-based care. The integrated telehealth network enhances availability of amputation rehabilitation and prosthetics specialty care that includes state-of-the-art rehabilitation services, equipment, and prosthetic technology.

Vision

To be a world leader in providing life-long amputation care.

The ASoC closely aligns with the VA Polytrauma System of Care and Assistive Technology Centers of Excellence.



(Photo courtesy of Jeff Bowen)

Other collaborations include the Military Amputation Care Centers for Servicemembers with amputations and integration with VA amputation prevention programs. There is a strong partnership with the Amputation Coalition and development of comprehensive peer visitor programs.

AMPUTATION SYSTEM OF CARE COMPONENTS

Regional Amputation Centers provide the highest level of specialized expertise in clinical care and prosthetic technology, as well as rehabilitation for the most complicated patients.

Polytrauma Amputation Network Sites provide a full range of clinical and ancillary services to Veterans within their local Veterans Integrated Service Network catchment area.

Amputation Clinic Teams are located at sites with more limited inpatient and prosthetic capabilities. These sites provide regular follow-up care and address ongoing needs.

Amputation Points of Contact are individuals at all other facilities specifically identified as the point of contact for Veteran consultation, assessment, and referral to a facility capable of providing the required level of services.



POPULATION SERVED

Those served include Veterans and Servicemembers with extremity amputations from any cause. The ASoC also serves individuals who have a high likelihood of requiring an extremity amputation due to disease or injury.

Those individuals who have also undergone extremity trauma with limb salvage procedures and subsequent complex orthotic and rehabilitation needs also qualify for care in the ASoC.

ACCESS TO CARE

Eligible Veterans and Servicemembers with amputations will receive the level of rehabilitative and prosthetic services required to restore them to their maximum level of function. The patient, their family, and health care team together determine the facility at which rehabilitative services and care are provided.

Care is based on individual needs, goals, and preferences. Factors to consider include the level of services required to maximize function, health of the residual and contralateral limb, the geographic proximity to the patient's home, and the patient's personal preference.



ASoC REHABILITATION

SERVICES GOALS

The primary goals of the rehabilitation system of care for Veterans and Servicemembers with amputations are to:

- Enhance the environment of care and ensure consistency in the delivery of rehabilitation services for Veterans and Servicemembers with amputations
- Provide specialized expertise in amputation care incorporating the latest practices in medical rehabilitation, therapy, and prosthetic technology.
- Establish a well-defined and coordinated care programs to meet the needs of all Veterans and Servicemembers requiring rehabilitation following amputation.
- Ensure access to the most advanced and appropriate

prosthetic components to Veterans across the system of care regardless of geographic location.

- Provide care that focuses upon patients' expressed individual needs along the continuum of care and ensure the highest level of patient satisfaction.
- Provide innovative systems of care including telemedicine, educational programs, therapeutic interventions, and prosthetic devices.

ASoC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The ASoC is organized under Patient Care Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services and the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Program Office.

