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Dear Physician:

For a lower limb prosthesis to be covered by Medicare and many other insurance plans, 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 the compliant chart notes once evaluation is complete.

The physician must document AND DISCUSS the following:

1. Patient is motivated to ambulate; **and**
2. Patient's **specific** activities prior to amputation that will uphold potential K level; **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's ambulation potential must be based on the following classification levels:

K0 This patient 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.

K1 This patient has the ability or potential to use a prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence - a typical limited or unlimited household ambulator.

K2 This patient has the ability or potential for ambulation with the ability to traverse low-level environmental barriers such as curbs, stairs, or uneven surfaces - a typical community ambulator.

K3 The patient has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence - a typical community ambulator with the ability to traverse most environmental barriers and may have vocational, therapeutic, or exercise activity that demands prosthetic use beyond simple locomotion.

K4 The patient 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.