

Part 15: Prostheses

This Part of the Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines is made under the *Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Act 2006* (the Act), including sections 11A, 11AA, 23, 28 and 58.

This version of Part 15 of the Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines (the Guidelines) takes effect on the date of gazettal in the NSW Government Gazette and applies to any assessment of treatment and care needs relating to prostheses made on and from that date in respect of any participant in the Scheme, whether interim or lifetime, and whether accepted into the Scheme before or after the date of gazettal.

The Lifetime Care and Support Authority (Lifetime Care) may waive observance of any or parts of this Guideline. Waiving observance of all or part of this Guideline in any particular circumstances is not an indication that Lifetime Care will waive observance of this or any other Guideline in any other circumstances.

1 Definitions

1.1 In this Part of the Guidelines, these words and phrases have the following meanings:

Prosthesis is an artificial substitute for a missing body part, such as a leg, used for functional or cosmetic reasons, or both. Any reference to a prosthesis in this guideline includes any associated componentry. Any reference to a prosthesis in this Guideline relates to an external prosthesis or orthosis and does not include a surgically implanted prosthesis.

Provider refers to an accredited medical prescriber, an amputee clinic or a limb manufacturer, as relevant or applicable.

2 Prostheses

2.1 Lifetime Care considers a treatment and care need for a prosthesis to be reasonable and necessary where:

- a) the need has arisen through amputation of a limb because of the motor accident injury;
- b) the prosthesis promotes functional independence, self-management or cosmetic improvement; and
- c) any provider is, and the prescription, clinic services and manufacturing services are provided by, a person or persons accredited by Enable NSW or an equivalent body for interstate participants.

2.2 Lifetime Care considers a treatment and care need in connection with maintenance and repairs to prostheses to be reasonable and necessary where the need arises due to:

- a) normal wear and tear;
 - b) routine maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer or to meet industry standards;
and
 - c) the prescription and supply of maintenance and repairs of the prostheses is completed by a provider or providers that is or are accredited by Enable NSW or an equivalent body for interstate participants.
- 2.3 Reasonable and necessary treatment and care needs in connection with prostheses do not include the repair or replacement of a prosthesis if its repair or replacement is required due to neglect or misuse.
- 2.4 Lifetime Care may regard a prosthesis for a recreational activity to be reasonable and necessary, in addition to a primary prosthesis, where the participant is likely to engage in the activity on a regular and ongoing basis. *For example, Lifetime Care may fund specialised limbs for a sporting activity where involvement in the activity can be demonstrated by sporting club membership and evidence of attendance and participation.*
- 2.5 Lifetime Care will not consider an expense connected with a prosthesis to be a reasonable expense if the prosthesis does not comply with Australian Standards (if applicable), or if it is not registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (if applicable).