

HOW TO FIND AN EXPERIENCED UPPER LIMB PROSTHETIST

Whether you are an Individual with an upper limb loss/difference or a Physician who is guiding the plan of care for the Individual, finding a knowledgeable prosthetist is an important step to accessing the technology. The process itself can be overwhelming, especially if we don't fully understand the requirements of our insurance payers, the technology, how we will learn to use it and apply use to daily tasks. Although there are a multitude of prosthetists in the United States with basic training in upper limb prosthetic care, relatively few have the extensive experience needed to provide expert care in this domain.

It is important to find a prosthetist with whom we can relate; someone who will help us to understand and to navigate the process; someone who possesses the knowledge, skill and experience to provide this very important technology. Where do we start?

Interview the prosthetist to determine that he/she:

1. Is certified by the American Board for Certification (ABC)
2. Has a minimum of five years of current upper extremity experience and has fit more than 10 patients in the last year
3. Can specify what types of electrically-powered prostheses they have fit in the past two years
4. Has received certification, training and knowledge of products from the manufacturers of diverse prosthetic technology, including:
 - COAPT
 - Didrick Medical
 - Fillauer
 - Infinite Biomedical Technologies
 - Liberating Technologies (College Park)
 - Motion Control
 - Naked Prosthetics
 - Otto Bock
 - Touch Bionics
 - Texas Assistive Devices
 - TRS Prosthetics
5. Is able to work with your insurance provider
6. Works with an occupational therapist* who has extensive experience in upper limb prosthetic rehabilitation and training
7. Will connect you with this occupational therapist to discuss prosthetic rehabilitation and training
8. Will connect you with some of their clients to discuss their prosthetic care experience

Be sure to follow up with the occupational therapist and the clients of the prosthetic practice!