

When it comes to your mobility, what you know about your prosthetist and/or orthotist is important.

Millions of Americans need some level of prosthetic or orthotic care each year, whether it involves a prosthesis for a limb replacement or some form of orthotic body bracing or support – ranging from custom shoe inserts to a back brace to a new leg or arm. These patients entrust their mobility, as well as their risks of several common co-morbid conditions which plague those who lose their mobility, to a prosthetic and/or orthotic caregiver. But all prosthetists and orthotists are not created equal. By asking a few questions, you can help assure that you get the most accurate, reliable results and have the best experience possible.

Don't hesitate to ask. To get the best care, you should ask some important questions of the person you go to for your prosthetic or orthotic device.

WHAT TRAINING IN PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS DID YOU RECEIVE?

Professional credentialing is available for both the facilities and practitioners involved in delivering your orthotic and prosthetic care. The required preparation to treat patients with limb loss or impairment generally includes completion of a bachelor's degree focused on orthotics and/or prosthetics, a residency period and/or other extensive period of training working under the direction of one or more highly experienced professional practitioners plus a rigorous exam. Many states also require a proper license.

WHAT PERCENT OF YOUR TIME DO YOU SPEND TREATING ORTHOTIC AND/OR PROSTHETIC PATIENTS? HOW MANY PROSTHETIC AND/OR ORTHOTIC DEVICES HAVE YOU PROVIDED TO PATIENTS IN THE PAST YEAR?

Practice does make perfect. The more times you do something, the better you get. Most full-time prosthetists/orthotists will do over 200 patients/devices in a year. If the answer is a much smaller number, you may want to explore other providers.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED A RESIDENCY IN ORTHOTICS AND/OR PROSTHETICS?

Experience pays off. A significant number of training centers now offer residencies specific to treatment for prosthetic and/or orthotic patients. Today it is more likely that a younger practitioner will have completed a residency in orthotics and/or prosthetics. An older practitioner may well have secured high levels of competencies through a wealth of experience over many years. Yet, this is still a good question to ask, as the residency does show a very strong commitment to building competence in patient care.

To learn more, call us at:

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number



DO YOU HAVE A WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN PROVIDING ORTHOTIC AND/OR PROSTHETIC CARE TO PATIENTS AT ANY HOSPITALS, VETERANS OR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CENTERS?

Practitioner credentials and residency are important but the decision by other medical facilities such as hospitals, a VA center or an active duty military facility or even the direct recommendation from your physician to use a practitioner's services is a huge plus. It generally reflects that the practitioner or facility has a record of providing care with a responsible history of safety and patient satisfaction.

Essential qualifications help ensure quality and your peace of mind. Medicare paid around 1.83 million claims for prosthetics and orthotics to approximately 1.4 million beneficiaries last year, but only about 465,000 of these were provided by certified orthotists and prosthetists. You have choices in your care. The qualifications and talents of all practitioners are not equal. Experience and training make a difference. You deserve the best care from the first practitioner you see. So be an educated consumer and ask these questions first.