



Children's activity and sports prostheses

Eligibility criteria and how to apply

Up to the end of March 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is making available a total of £1 million (£500,000 per financial year) to fund prostheses in England for children who have suffered limb loss or were born with a limb deficiency, to enable them to engage in physical activity and sports.

NHS Limb centres in England may request funds from DHSC for individual prostheses they have prescribed up to the value of £5,000 per limb (not per child), including all the associated costs of fitting the new limb, such as a new socket or liner.

For an individual prosthesis of greater value, they must apply for approval from an advisory group.

Eligibility criteria

Funding will be provided if the following criteria are met:

- The child or young person is under the age of 18 when assessed for their prosthesis.
- The child or young person has suffered limb loss or congenital limb deficiency. The prostheses can be for any limb (or limbs if the child has multiple limb loss or deficiency). Upper and lower limb components can be included.
- In the opinion of the clinicians in the Limb Centre, the child or young person is fit to engage in physical activity.
- In the opinion of the Limb Centre, the child or young person will benefit from the prosthesis, and from engaging in the physical activity.

Please note that the physical activity might include PE, sports or games at school, recreation, playing with friends or organised sporting activity.

- In the opinion of the Limb Centre, the prosthesis is appropriate for the child or young person, and the activity for which it is intended.

The Limb Centre - rather than the child or young person and their family - must be responsible for determining the appropriate prosthesis.

Components which are being used as part of a trial or to support a study will not be funded.

- The Limb centre is confident that there is a need for the prosthesis and that it will be used for more specialised activities (e.g. canoeing, rock climbing for example - there is a demonstrable interest in the sport, or a history of participation).

Making a claim

NHS Limb centres in England may request funds from DHSC for individual prostheses they have prescribed up to the value of £5,000 (per limb not per child), including all the associated costs of fitting the new limb, such as a new socket or line. This is a limited fund and is available between April 2018 and March 2020.

Claims may only be made which meet criteria A to F.

Please note that for anything of greater value, an application must be made to the advisory group for approval using form P1. Please see 'Making an application' below for more information.

Please note that applications must come via NHS Limb Centres, and cannot come from individuals or families.

In order to obtain payment for a prosthesis, an invoice for the full amount claimed must be submitted to DHSC's mailbox: childprosthesis@dh.gsi.gov.uk

In addition, for every prosthesis provided, a completed P2 monitoring form should be returned to the same mailbox which will allow us to evaluate the uptake of the scheme. This can be returned either with the invoice, or subsequent to the issuing of the prosthesis.

Please ensure the invoice and form includes no patient identifiable data. You may of course want to include your own reference / identifier.

Payments will be made within 30 days to the account you have previously supplied to DHSC. If you have not previously registered as a supplier, please e-mail Kathryn.Flynn@dh.gsi.gov.uk for a copy of the supplier form.

Making an exceptional application

For individual prostheses and support costing more than £5,000, the Limb Centre must submit an application for approval to the children's prosthetic advisory group, using form P1. Forms should be sent to LimbPower, Whitecroft, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6LL.

Applications should only be made which meet the criteria A to F, and the form is designed to secure evidence to ensure this is the case. Should the advisory group determine that the application does not provide sufficient evidence of this, or if the group consider the request should not be supported, the decision will be communicated in writing to the Limb Centre.

Following approval, the procedure in 'Making a claim' will apply.

Seeking advice

If you are unsure about the eligibility criteria, the process for making an application, or you would like to speak with a clinician with experience of fitting a children's prosthesis please contact Carly Bauert at LimbPower who will be able to assist you.

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