

Service:
Bristol Centre for Enablement

Prosthetics



Exceptional healthcare, personally delivered

Welcome to the Prosthetic Service

Our service sees patients who have had an amputation or who have been born with a limb deficiency. We assess the suitability of every patient for an artificial limb and then make and fit it within our clinic. We also provide on-going support and advice with any issues related to your amputation or use of the prosthesis.

Our service covers Bristol, the whole of Gloucestershire, north Somerset and the western parts of Wiltshire.

You will normally be referred into our service by your surgeon, GP or other member of your clinical team.

Your Initial Appointment (Primary Assessment)

The aim of your initial appointment is for the clinical team to assess your potential for using an artificial limb. This may take up to 2-3 hours. If the assessment is for a child it is very helpful if both parents/carers attend at least for the first appointment. You will be given lots of information and advice about how your child will be treated and managed over the coming years.

During your meeting with the clinical team please ask any questions you may have.

To help with your assessment please bring with you:

- A list of medication you are currently taking.
- Any medication you need to take whilst at the centre.
- Your wheelchair and its attachments (if applicable).
- Appropriate shoe.
- Snacks / change for refreshments.

If your assessment suggests that you will benefit from an artificial limb then you will receive a series of appointments, at which you will be cast and fitted for your artificial limb by a prosthetist.

Our Specialist Clinical Team

The staff who look after you:

- **Nurse Specialist** - provides wound care, general advice on issues such as diabetes and pain management, including

phantom limb pain. She is also able to prescribe medications in relation to pain and infections associated with your amputation.

- **Physiotherapist** - provides the treatment for local patients and coordinates the provision of physiotherapy if you live outside the local area.
- **Occupational Therapist** - teaches upper limb patients to use their artificial arm, and advises patients on how to achieve as much independence in the activities of daily living, such as washing, dressing and cooking. They will also advise both upper and lower limb patients on wheelchairs, driving, return to work and leisure activities.
- **Podiatrist** - assesses and advises you on how to look after your remaining foot.
- **Counsellor** - talks with patients and family members either before or after their amputation. They can help with the many difficult emotions and feelings which often occur around the time of amputation or if a child is born with a disability.
- **Prosthetist** - prescribes your prosthesis (artificial limb) and provides all ongoing care.
- A team of specialist technicians make all the artificial limbs on site and also carry out any ongoing repairs.

Swelling (oedema)

Swelling of your residual limb (stump) will occur after amputation but this will gradually reduce and your leg may continue to shrink for many months. Swelling may be kept under control by elevating your stump and the use of a compression sock (shrinker). A member of the clinical team will advise you how and when to wear your compression sock.

Phantom limb sensation

Phantom limb sensation is an extremely common occurrence. It can be a painful or non painful feeling where the limb is not present. Although the body has lost a limb, the brain still has the old geography (map) wired in and therefore it still transmits pain signals. If you are experiencing phantom limb sensations, please discuss this with the clinical team.

**PATIENT
APPROVED** 

How to contact us:



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www.nbt.nhs.uk/prosthetics

If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.

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be involved...**
in research



While in our care, you may be invited to take part in a research study.

To find out more visit:
www.nbt.nhs.uk/research



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