

Amputee Rehabilitation

Traumatic Amputation QUERI Workshop

Optimize amputee function, independence & quality of life

IA. Population

Upper extremity /Lower extremity Traumatic Amputees

IB. Clinical

- Physical and psychosocial rehabilitation of traumatic amputees is not achieving / maintaining optimal function (prosthetic training/mobility) in order to enhance quality of life.
- Additional information concerning the subpopulation and their needs will be assessed.

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2A. No known guidelines

2B. Clinical Recommendations

- It is well documented that traumatic amputees have potential to lose physical function as a result of secondary complications and deconditioning (ie strength, aerobic endurance, balance, etc.). Evidence exists that appropriate intervention will allow amputee optimal level of function.
- Existing VA clinical pathway needs revision to be consistent with current evidence-based rehabilitation methods.
- Explore additional guidelines: worldwide as well as those related to other disability groups.

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3. Measure/ Define Quality / Information Gaps

- Examine current survey data across all VA's concerning prosthetic care and amputee rehabilitation.
- What are the barriers to utilization of current VA equipment, facility, personnel, practice strategy, equipment assessment to solve the problem.
- Examine the database and look at how access and dissemination can be improved.

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3. Measure/ Define Quality / Information Gaps

- Review of literature addressing gaps in provision of quality of care/rehabilitation for amputees.
- Qualitative data collection to identify barriers to delivery of best practices toward maximizing functional independence and quality of life.

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4,5,6 *Implement and evaluate improvement programs*

- Prosthetic training and physical conditioning to maximize function and quality of life
- Implement clinical research findings to maximize physical function and quality of life

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C. Clinical Investigations (Pre-QUERI)

- What is the best surgical technique to enable maximum function?
- What is the best method to prepare amputees for prosthetic fitting and successful use?
- What is the best method to augment prosthetic fitting with physical and psychological therapy?
- What is the best treatment mix for successful prosthesis use and quality of life?

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