

K levels

NOTE: This information is **relevant only to Medicare patients**. Your physician, in consultation with your prosthetist, will decide on the type of prosthetic components (socket design, foot type, etc.) to be used in your prosthesis. During this process they will try to predict the activity (functional) level you're most likely to achieve in order to choose the most appropriate components for your prosthesis.

- **Functional level 0:** The patient does not have the ability or potential to ambulate or transfer safely with or without assistance and a prosthesis does not enhance his/her quality of life or mobility.**Functional level 1:** The patient has the ability or potential to use a prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence. Typical of the limited and unlimited household ambulator.**Functional level 2:** The patient has the ability or potential for ambulation with the ability to traverse low level environmental barriers such as curbs, stairs, or uneven surfaces. Typical of the limited community ambulator.**Functional level 3:** The patient has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence. Typical of the community ambulator who has the ability to traverse most environmental barriers and may have vocational, therapeutic, or exercise activity that demands prosthetic utilization beyond simple locomotion.**Functional level 4:** The patient has the ability or potential for prosthetic ambulation that exceeds basic ambulation skills, exhibiting high impact, stress, or energy levels. Typical of the prosthetic demands of the child, active adult, or athlete.

A system has been devised to "rate" functional level as they relate to component selection (see above). Medicare created this system to ensure appropriate components are used. For example, if it appears you will be able to walk around the house but you will not have the strength or ability to walk on uneven surfaces or to climb curbs and stairs, you would be rated as a household ambulator (walker), ability level K1.

You would be provided with components that would be appropriate for your activity level. Components that are designed for higher activity levels would not be covered for payment under the Medicare policy. Your physician determines your functional ability level. If your functional ability increases over time, your rating can be changed to a higher level.