# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual C-700: Medical Services

Revised December 3, 2018

## C-703: Policies for Services, Procedures, and Programs with Special Requirements

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### C-703-21: Orthoses and Prostheses

The VR counselor provides an orthosis or prosthesis to enhance a customer's employability or capability to perform activities of daily living that will facilitate employment.

#### Required Medical Examinations for Orthoses and Prostheses

For orthoses, a physician's examination is required before the purchase of an initial orthosis or if there is difficulty using the current orthosis.

For prostheses, an examination by a physician with a specialty in orthopedics or physical medicine and rehabilitation is required before the purchase of the first prosthesis.

If the customer has difficulty using his or her current prosthesis because of medical issues or problems with the residual limb, an orthopedic or physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist evaluation is required before planning the purchase of a second prosthesis. This specialty evaluation requirement for a prosthesis replacement does not apply to the following situations:

* The fit and use of the current prosthesis is compromised by damaged prosthetic components.
* A poor socket fit exists because of changes in weight or the normal physiologic changes that occur to the residual limb because of ambulation and activity with an initial prosthesis.

All providers of orthoses and prostheses must:

* be currently licensed by the Texas Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics;
* perform all measurements, fittings, alignments, and final checkouts;
* fabricate or directly supervise the fabrication of these devices; and
* provide final delivery and instructions for use.

Payments for orthoses or prostheses may not exceed MAPS.

#### University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Reviews

If the cost to VR for the prosthesis equals or exceeds $12,500 and the letter of specification contains no unlisted MAPS codes, the following is required;

* consultation with a VR Manager first; and
* University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) technical review of the letter of specification.

#### Orthotic and Prosthetic Review Committee (OPRC)

If the letter of specification contains a prosthetic component with an unlisted MAPS code, consult with the VR Manager and then send the letter to the State Office Orthotic and Prosthetic Review Committee (OPRC). The component must be approved for purchase by the OPRC regardless of the cost.

An OPRC review is required even when the customer's comparable benefit is expected to pay for the major portion of the cost of the prosthesis or orthosis.

A letter of specification for a prosthetic that has an unlisted MAPS code does not require a secondary technical UTSW review.

If the L-code for a device or component is not listed in MAPS when the service record is generated, the OPRC must approve the purchase of the specialized device or component regardless of cost. OPRC approval for the purchase of a specialized device or component does not require an additional technical review by UTSW. Use the following procedures to submit a case to the OPRC for approval.

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