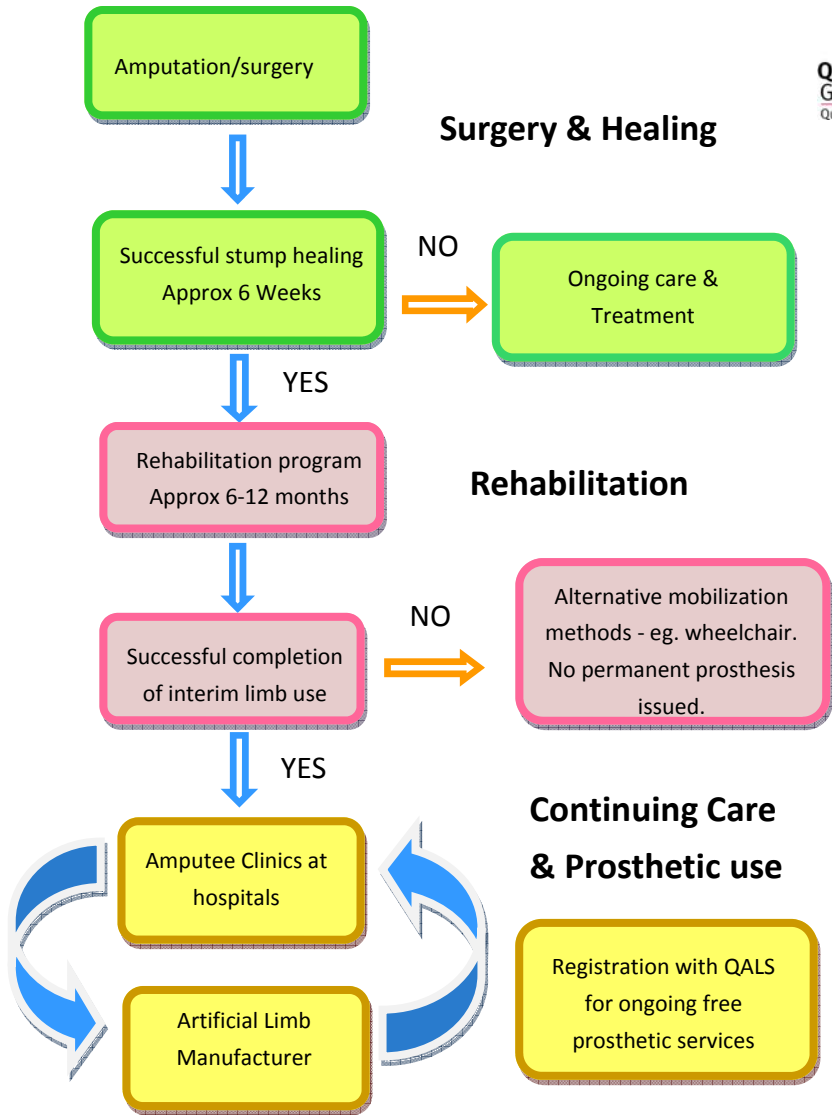


Amputee Rehabilitation Journey



Published in the interest of the amputees requesting prosthetic services and funding under the 'Free Limb Scheme', Queensland Health. 2008

www.health.qld.gov.au/qals

National Amputee Awareness Day 11 June

QALS tel: 07 3896 3770



WHAT IS QALS ?

Queensland Amputee Limb Service - QALS is the administrative body of Queensland Health which is responsible for the administration and funding of artificial limbs and prosthetic services to both child and adult residents of Queensland.

Following amputation, amputees are assessed for suitability to undergo a rehabilitation program to learn how to walk and use a prosthesis. Amputee Clinics are situated at the two major Brisbane hospitals and several regional clinics along the East Coast of Queensland. The Amputee Clinics and QALS work in conjunction to provide the patient with a holistic prosthetic services.



REHABILITATION

During rehabilitation an amputee will be provided with a temporary artificial limb (interim prosthesis) to assist with his/her walking exercises and stump conditioning. Interim prosthetics are usually supplied by the hospital where the rehabilitation is occurring. They are very basic in design and not ascetic to look at, but serve the purpose of a training aid and mobility support .

AMPUTEE CLINICS



Once the patient has been assessed as being suitable for ongoing prosthetic use and has completed their rehabilitation program they will be recommended for a permanent artificial limb (definitive prosthesis). A definitive prosthesis usually provides on an average 3 years of use to an amputee before needing replacement.

DEFINITIVE PROSTHESIS

The cost of prosthetic services can be very expensive. Queensland Health have what is known as a 'free limb scheme'. Basic, essential prosthetic services are provided through this scheme. To receive this service you must register with QALS. Your eligibility will then be assessed and you will be notified if you are entitled to receive prosthetic services funded by Queensland Health.

ELIGIBLE FOR FREE PROSTHETIC SERVICES

INTERIM PROSTHESIS



OUR MISSION



Our mission is to ensure the provision of an essential prosthesis for eligible amputees through the effective and efficient management of a client focussed artificial limb scheme and complimentary initiatives.

QALS will facilitate the process of assessment, provision, acquittal, repair or maintenance of prostheses and provide consumables supplies with our resources in a an atmosphere that seeks continuous improvement.

Definitive prosthetics are made by private companies who specialise in the manufacturing of artificial limbs. They are called prosthetic service providers (PSP) and are contracted on behalf of Queensland Health by QALS. Amputees build up a long term relationship with their PSP and will have regular contact with them for repairs, maintenance and replacement of their prostheses.

PSP

QALS and Department of Veterans' Affairs have an administrative arrangement covering prosthetic services to eligible Veterans and their dependants. This process ensures all DVA eligible clients are provided the same speciality rehabilitation support via the network of the multi disciplinary team at the amputee clinics and PSPs.

DVA

Amputees seeking compensation for their limb loss will need to contact QALS for advice on their eligibility and the scope of services that will be provided to them while they progress with their legal matters.

COMPENSATION CLIENTS

AMPUTEE SUPPORT GROUPS



Peer support by other amputees is deemed as very beneficial to a new amputee. A visit to a new amputee while still in hospital by a member of the local amputee support group can be arranged by the treating rehabilitation team.