

Answering Your

QUESTIONS ABOUT PROSTHETICS

What's the difference between prosthetics and prostheses?

Prosthetics, as a noun, refers to the science and technology of creating an artificial body part to replace a missing one. The parts created are called *protheses*. Prosthetic can also be used as an adjective, as in "prosthetic leg."

What is a certified prosthetist (CP)?

The profession of prosthetics combines art with science, with the intent of improving the quality of life for amputees. A prosthetist is a healthcare professional specifically educated to manage prosthetic patient care – assessment, treatment planning and implementation, design, fabrication, fitting, and customizing a prosthesis. They assess patients' needs and goals, working with those with amputations due to accidents, congenital problems, or disabling diseases. To be certified as a CP by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and



Assessing gait



Fitting prosthetic leg



Brooke Artesi, wearing UNYQ prosthetic cover

Pedorthics (ABCOP) a prosthetist must demonstrate knowledge and competence in the field of prosthetics. They need a college degree in prosthetics and orthotics plus a yearlong residency program. Then, they become eligible to sit for a three-part series of rigorous examinations to test their knowledge and skills in this discipline. They must also maintain their credential through continuing education and must have specialized education and skills constantly meeting emerging technologies. If you see the initials *CPO* after the professional's name, it means they are certified by ABC in both prosthetics and orthotics. Certified prosthetists can assist patients in walking safely, improving overall balance, and accommodating special requirements.

How does the process of getting a prosthesis begin?

The prosthetist will work with the patient's rehab team, including his or her physician, to develop a plan of care addressing the patient's individual goals. With the prescription from the patient's physician, the prosthetist will make a mold of the residual limb to make a prosthetic socket.

The prosthetist will work with the patient in selecting the most suitable prosthesis based on needs and goals. The patient will receive instructions on use and care of the prosthesis and obtaining supplies necessary such as socks and liners. The prosthetist will also make repairs and adjustments over time and help find other health professionals such as occupational or physical therapists to help the patient learn to use their prosthesis.

How can I learn more?

Brooke Artesi, CPO, LPO, owner of Sunshine Prosthetics and Orthotics, is vice president of The New Jersey Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, a chapter of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists. AAOP is dedicated to promoting professionalism and advancing the standard of patient care through education, literature, research, and collaboration. As an advocate of patient education, Artesi has several pages of the Sunshinepando.com website dedicated to answers of frequently asked questions, educational literature available for free downloads and resources for patient advocacy, support groups, adaptive sports and legislation.

Sunshine Prosthetics and Orthotics, located in Wayne, New Jersey, provides a full range of services for amputees and other physically challenged adults and children. Call 973-696-8100 to learn more about their custom services or visit their website at www.SunshinePando.com.



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BROOKE ARTESI, CPO, LPO

1700 ROUTE 23 NORTH - SUITE 180 WAYNE NJ 07470
973.696.8100