

## PROSTHETIC & ORTHOTIC GLOSSARY

**AE Amputee** – Above-the-elbow or transhumeral amputee

**AK Amputee** – Above-the-knee or transfemoral amputee

**Alignment** – Position of a prosthetic socket in relation to foot and knee

**Amputation** – Removal of all or part of a limb due to infection, injury, tumor, disease or trauma

**Amputee** – A person who has had all or part of a limb removed/amputated or is born without a limb

**Ankle Foot Orthosis (AFO)** – a support brace used to control the position and motion of the ankle, typically used to help compensate for muscle weakness or deformity

**BE Amputee** – Below-the-elbow - Trans Radial

**Bilateral** – Bi means both, meaning both sides

**BK Amputee** – Below-the-Knee - Trans Tibial

**Body Image** – Awareness and perception of one's body related to both appearance and function

**Carbon Fiber** – Non-stretch carbon fabric used to reinforce lightweight composite resin structures, such as prosthetic components and socket

**Carpal Tunnel Syndrome** – a condition that causes pain, numbness and tingling in the hand and arm, typically due to the compression of a major nerve

**Cervical Thoracic Lumbar Sacral Orthosis (CTLSO)** – a two-piece brace used to stabilize the head, neck and spine after surgery and/or spinal fracture in order to decrease pain and promote recovery

**Chopart** – A type of partial foot amputation

**Congenital Limb Deficiency** – When all or parts of limb/s do not develop normally in the womb or are missing

**Contracture** – the shortening and hardening of muscles, tendons or other tissue that may lead to the deformity or rigidity of joints, often seen as a result of a preceding health condition such as injury or disease

**CPO** – Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist

**Disarticulation** – Limb is amputated through the joint

**Doffing** – Taking the prosthesis off

**Donning** – Putting the prosthesis on

**Drop Foot (or Foot Drop)** – a general term used to describe the difficulty or inability to lift the toes and ball of the foot, often seen as a symptom of an underlying neurological or muscular condition

**Edema** – Swelling of the tissues (also spelled oedema)

**Elbow Orthosis (EO)** – a hinged orthosis extending from the forearm to the upper arm that supports the elbow for cases of joint injury, stiffness or instability

**Elbow Wrist Hand Orthosis (EWHO)** – an orthosis used to support the arm below the shoulder joint and treat disorders involving the elbow, wrist, hand and/or fingers

**Extremity** – Relating to arm or leg

**Femoral Fracture** – a break of the femur bone in the upper leg

**Gait Training** – Learning to walk with a prosthesis, often with assistance from a Physical Therapist

**Hip Abduction Orthosis** – a brace worn to support the hip joint and help hold the femur in place

**Hip Disarticulation** – Amputation of entire lower limb at hip level; Ischial Tuberosity, also called the ischial bone or ischium; located in the pelvis and used for weight bearing

**Hip Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (HKAFO)** – a brace used to stabilize the leg and support mobility, often used to treat muscular imbalance or weakness, paralysis and other medical conditions

**Humeral Fracture** – a break of the humerus bone in the upper arm

**Interface** – Inner surface of socket, or portion of prosthesis closest to the skin

**Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (KAFO)** – an orthosis worn from the mid-hip down to the foot in order to provide protection and stability of the knee joint and support the mobility of the lower leg

**Knee Orthosis (KO)** – a durable brace that surrounds the knee and is used to stabilize and support the ligaments, tendons and muscles above and below the joint

**Liner** – Soft socket rolled or pulled over the residual limb and used for protection, comfort and in some cases as a suspension device

**Lower Extremity** – Lower limb

**Lumbar Sacral Orthosis (LSO)** – a formfitting brace worn around the torso to help immobilize and support the lumbar (lower) spine, usually used to reduce pain and protect the spine after a spinal fracture or surgery

**Myoelectric** – Type of upper extremity prosthesis using bio-feedback to control the function

**Occupational Therapy** – Training to maximize independence in daily life

**Orthosis** – A brace/device that is used to straighten and provide support to a limb or the spine (plural: orthoses)

**Orthotist** – One who fits braces and devices designed to straighten or support extremities/spine

**Osteoarthritis** – the most common form of arthritis caused by the deterioration of protective cartilage cushioning the point of contact where bones meet

**Partial Foot** – Amputation through any part of the foot leaving the ankle intact

**Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD)** – Disease of the blood vessels from a variety of causes

**Pes Cavus (or High Arch)** – a condition in which the sole of the foot is distinctly hollow when bearing weight and often causes pain, discomfort or instability

**Pes Planus (or Flat Feet)** – a condition causing the full sole of the foot to touch the floor when standing and sometimes causes the heel or other parts of the foot to ache or feel discomfort

**Phantom Pain** – Painful feeling in the part of the extremity that has been amputated

**Phantom Sensation** – Awareness of the amputated limb although not described as pain

**Physical Therapy** – Therapeutic exercises in order to treat a disease or a disability

**Pistoning** – The vertical motion of a residual limb inside a prosthetic socket- sometimes occurs when the liner stretches so that the stump elongates.

**Proprioception** – A sense of the location/orientation of one's limb in space

**Prosthesis** – A fabricated/artificial substitute for a body part that is missing (plural: prostheses)

**Prosthetist** – A practitioner who designs, fits and makes artificial limbs

**Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency (PFFD)** – shortened femur bone

**Quadrilateral** – Limb loss involving all four limbs

**Residual Limb** – The remaining part of the limb after amputation (the “stump”)

**Scoliosis** – a diagnosis of the sideways curvature of the spine, most often seen in children due to a growth spurt prior to puberty

**Shoe (or Heel) Lift** – a padded insert to be worn in the shoe, commonly used to support leg-length differences and help treat knee, hip or back pain

**Shoulder Elbow Wrist Hand Orthosis (SEWHO)** – an elbow extension orthosis designed to provide anatomical alignment of the shoulder, humerus, forearm, wrist and hand

**Socket** – The part of the prosthesis (artificial limb) that fits around the residual limb – and fits around the liner or socket insert if one is used

**Socket Insert** – A soft foam that is contoured to fit around the residual limb and fits inside the socket to provide for some increased padding and comfort for the residual limb

**Stump** – A less commonly used word that describes the remaining limb

**Shrinkers** – An elastic sock that fits over the residual limb that is made to control swelling, promote healing, and assist in shaping the limb

**Spasticity** – a condition in which muscles stiffen or tighten, remain contracted and resist being stretched – affecting the normal fluid motion of movement and gait

**Suction Socket** – A socket on an artificial leg that excludes the entry of air and is held to the residual limb by the suction of negative pressure maintained within the socket

**Symes** – Amputation through the ankle

**Thoracic Lumbar Sacral Orthosis (TLSO)** – a custom-molded plastic orthosis worn around the torso to help correct the curve progression of the spine, most commonly used to treat scoliosis

**Total Contact** – Total contact between the residual limb and socket at all points

**Transradial** – Amputation below the elbow (through the radius and ulna bones)

**Transfemoral (TF)** – Amputation above the knee (through the femur bone)

**Transmetatarsal (TM)** – Amputation through the metatarsal foot bones (partial foot amputation)

**Transpelvic** – Amputation of entire lower limb, plus a portion of the pelvic bone; may also be referred to as a hemipelvectomy

**Transtibial (TT)** – Amputation below the knee (through the tibia and fibula bones)

**Transhumeral** – Amputation above the elbow (through the humerus bone)

**Trilateral** – Limb loss involving three limbs

**Upper Extremity** – Upper limb

**Vascular Amputation** – Amputation surgery performed as a result of impaired circulation of blood through the blood vessels of the limb

**Wrist Hand Orthosis (WHO)** – an orthosis to treat disorders below the elbow joint and support the function of the wrist, hand and/or fingers