

The Department of Defense's (DOD) Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE) developed a standardized outcome measure program to support amputation rehabilitation performance improvement and program evaluation. Amputation rehabilitation has insufficient evidence supporting current clinical practices, leaving patients with inadequate rehabilitation or prosthetic support. Outcome measures are key to developing the data needed to change standards and efficaciously provide healthcare to this population, illustrated by multiple U.S. national efforts. These include a 2016 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Consensus Statement on lower limb prosthetic prescription practices³, 2019 RAND Arroyo study on advanced clinical competencies in amputation care⁴, and 2020 National Institutes of Health product on common data elements in lower limb loss research.⁵ These workgroups and studies found insufficient research to support most prescription, described a need for clinical outcome measures to be standardized and tracked, and called for the development of standardized outcome measures in research to enhance science based prescription practice. The EACE focused on four clinical specialties: physical therapy, occupational therapy, physical medicine and prosthetics. Both the 2014 Veterans Affairs (VA)/DOD Upper Extremity Amputation Rehabilitation clinical practice guideline¹ (CPG) and the 2017 Rehabilitation of the Individual with Lower Limb Amputation CPG² recommend the use of valid, reliable outcome measures in these specialties. The EACE utilized a Delphi like approach to develop a set of consensus derived patient reported and performance based outcome measures. Over the course of three years, subject matter experts selected outcome measures utilizing the CPGs, literature and clinical experience; the EACE developed standardization training. This session will describe the selection process and share standardization challenges and successes.

References:

1. Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Clinical Practice Guideline For Upper Extremity Amputation Rehabilitation. 2014. Available at <https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/Rehab/amp/>
2. Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Clinical Practice Guideline For Rehabilitation Of Individuals With Lower Limb Amputation. 2017. Available at <https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/Rehab/amp/>
3. Lower Limb Prosthetic Workgroup Consensus Document. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. SEP 2017. Available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/DeterminationProcess/downloads/LLP_Consensus_Document.pdf
4. Etchegaray J, Krull H, Holliday S, et al. Core Competencies for Amputation Rehabilitation. RAND Arroyo Center. 2019.
5. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Common Data Elements for Lower Limb Loss Research Standards. 2020. Available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-21-001.html>

