



Amputation Claims Fact Sheet



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AMPUTATION CLAIMS - INFORMATION SHEET

Around 5000 to 6000 major limb amputations are carried out each year in the UK. These procedures are frequently required as a result of underlying conditions such as diabetes or peripheral arterial disease (PAD), but they can also arise following a Major Trauma accident.

The short and long term outlook for amputees can be affected by a variety of factors, including age, the extent and location of the amputation, and how well the individual is able to cope psychologically and emotionally with the loss of their limb.

People who undergo limb amputation will require an extensive programme of physio and rehabilitation, and this may well include psychological treatment in the form of counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy. Access to a comprehensive and consistent course of treatment is vitally important, and the long-term outlook can be significantly improved if the right treatment can be implemented as and when it is ideally needed.

A wide range of symptoms and complications can arise following amputation, including "phantom limb pain" and feelings of grief and bereavement, but with the right long term support and rehabilitation many amputees can eventually return to work, sports and other activities.

The Major Trauma and Serious Injury team at Horwich Cohen Coghlan place specific emphasis on rehabilitation pathways at the earliest possible opportunity, and will work to ensure maximal delivery of the Rehabilitation Prescription that NHS Major Trauma Centres issue prior to discharge. This is particularly important in amputation cases, and we look to identify and incorporate the best possible prosthetic solution for each person, depending on their personal preferences and requirements.

Amputee subjects need to plan for their treatment and rehabilitation into the medium and long term, and consideration of the best and most appropriate prosthetics and other adaptations will be vital to maximising the long-term outlook. It takes a lot more energy to use a prosthetic limb, as other parts of the body have to compensate for the missing muscle function. We will do everything possible to secure the best available prosthetic devices for our amputee clients, including a number of alternative devices for different uses.

Our Major Trauma solicitors work with clients to consider a full range of practical issues, including travel and transport, mobility aids, assistive technology, grants and funding, benefits (including carers allowance) and of course prosthetic options.

Funding is of course a huge issue in these cases, as advanced prosthetics can be very expensive and need to be reviewed on a regular basis. Our lawyers will do

everything possible to ensure that your claim takes into account these needs for the rest of your life, not just the next few years.

Personal support is of course extremely important in amputation cases, and in addition to the support of family and friends it can be very useful to access peer support through charitable agencies such as The Limbless Association. Horwich Cohen Coghlan Solicitors have established links with this organisation, and will ensure that you have access to their services going forward.

If you have any queries in relation to an amputation scenario, please contact one of our Major Trauma and Serious Injury solicitors on 0161 830 4600, or submit an enquiry form via our website.