

The Panel for the Care of Individuals with Amputation and Functional Limb Loss

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Vision

Through the collaboration of a multi-disciplinary team, we will provide state-of-the-art amputee care, assisting our patients as they return to a lifetime of the highest physical, psychological and emotional function.

Mission

To provide highest quality comprehensive care, enabling each individual to maximize their potential and achieve their personal goals while continuing to be productive members of our society.

Goals

- **Set the standard for surgical, prosthetic and rehabilitative care in the care and management of amputee patients.**
- **Provide information and assistance to our patients and their families, empowering them to participate fully and actively in the decision making process related to their care and future.**
- **Conduct research and provide education and training in leading-edge care and rehabilitation of the amputee patient.**
- **Fully engage and participate with the VA Health Care System, drawing from its expertise where applicable.**
- **Optimize the ability of individuals with amputations to function, providing them with the opportunity to return to the highest level of activity.**
- **Actively tell our story and seek all opportunities to continue to reaffirm the trust our soldiers and their families have in our medical care capabilities.**
- **Identify and collaborate with outside facilities of demonstrated expertise to insure maximization of resources, medical care and research in the provision of care to our amputee patients.**
- **Leverage leading edge technology, serve as the catalyst for innovation and foster break-through technologies in the provision of amputee care**
- **Develop, maintain and engage methods of assessing our progress, providing long-term follow-up and evaluation, continually incorporating lessons learned, developing the most optimal methods of caring for amputee patients throughout their lifetime.**

Duties

Function solely as an advisory subcommittee under the Defense Health Board IAW the Federal Advisory Committee Act

Monitor amputee patient care programs and services, and provide advice to the DoD through the Commanders of the WRHCS, BAMC and SDNMC, and their respective Surgeons General, regarding programs, services and effective organizational planning.

Current Scope

- Individuals with amputation and functional limb loss
 - Exact definition and meaning of function limb loss is still being discussed

Expanding Role

- Rehabilitation Medicine
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD)
 - Burns
 - Chronic Pain Syndromes
- Panels Decision was to remain focused on patients with limb loss

Current Issues

(External)

- Need for advocacy for the funding for care and research related to patients with limb loss
- Need to insure that patients with limb loss and their families receive all necessary mental health support
- Recommend establishment of an Executive Agent for amputee care
- Need better clarity on COAD/COAR vs. Fit for Duty findings and the effect on the Service Member

Current Issues

(Internal)

- Identify, select and submit for nomination and appointment new panel members
- Review process of transition from in-patient to out-patient and socialization into the new environment
- Review patient category mixes at Fisher Houses and issues related to common usage areas
- Determine how best to address spouse and children's needs (Camp Noah, Peer Visitors, etc)
- Develop web-based "ground-up" chat room for patients and families similar to commander.com

Future Direction

- Maintain Focus on Patients with Limb Loss
- Address co-morbidity issues related to patients with limb loss
 - TBI
 - PTSD
- Remain Focused on Goals