Overview
The purpose of this document is to describe the guidelines Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP) utilizes to determine medical appropriateness of lower limb prostheses.

Coverage Guidelines
NHP provides coverage for a lower limb prosthesis/component(s) when it is medically necessary for the treatment of illness or injury in order to improve functioning and when it is within the member’s applicable benefit.

Coverage includes but is not limited to: the purchase of the prosthetic/component(s) or replacement parts and repairs when it is no longer under warranty.

To obtain a lower limb prosthesis/component(s) for a member, the treating physical medicine and rehabilitation physician should contact a contracted NHP prosthetics provider directly. This provider must have a prosthetist on staff that is currently certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics Inc. (ABC), or the Board of Certification/Accreditation, International (BOC). This prosthetist needs to evaluate the member and coordinate with the treating provider to gather and submit to NHP all of the necessary clinical information for determining the benefit coverage and medical necessity of the requested prosthesis/component(s).

Initial Lower Limb Prostheses General Criteria
As of February 20, 2017 medical necessity for lower limb prostheses is determined through McKesson’s InterQual® criteria. McKesson’s criterion is accessible to members and providers through NHP’s portal. To access the criteria, log in to NHP’s provider website at NHP.Net and click the InterQual® Criteria Lookup link under the Resources Menu.

Initial Lower Limb Prostheses Component-Specific Criteria
As of February 20, 2017 medical necessity for lower limb prostheses is determined through McKesson’s InterQual® criteria. McKesson’s criterion is accessible to members and providers through NHP’s portal. To access the criteria, log in to NHP’s provider website at NHP.Net and click the InterQual® Criteria Lookup link under the Resources Menu.

Replacement Lower Limb Prosthesis Criteria
As of February 20, 2017 medical necessity for lower limb prostheses is determined through McKesson’s InterQual® criteria. McKesson’s criterion is accessible to members and providers through NHP’s portal. To access the criteria, log in to NHP’s provider website at NHP.Net and click the InterQual® Criteria Lookup link under the Resources Menu.

Definitions
Medicare Functional Classification Levels (MFCL):
Level 0: Does not have the ability or potential to ambulate or transfer safely with or without assistance and a prosthesis does not enhance their quality of life or mobility.

Level 1: Has the ability or potential to use a prosthesis for transfers or ambulation on level surfaces at fixed cadence. Typical of the limited and unlimited household ambulator.

Level 2: Has the ability or potential for ambulation with the ability to traverse low level environmental barriers such as curbs, stairs or uneven surfaces. Typical of the limited community ambulator.

Level 3: Has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence. Typical of the community ambulator who has the ability to traverse most environmental barriers and may have vocational, therapeutic, or exercise activity that demands prosthetic utilization beyond simple locomotion.

Level 4: Has the ability or potential for prosthetic ambulation that exceeds basic ambulation skills, exhibiting high impact, stress, or energy levels. Typical of the prosthetic demands of the child, active adult, or athlete.

**Relevant Regulation**
MassHealth MCO Contract §2.6D

Massachusetts General Law: Coverage for prosthetic devices and repairs: M.G.L.c. 176 § 4S


NCQA Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans

**Related Policies**
- [Durable Medical Equipment](#)
- [Experimental and Investigational](#)

**Related DME Information**
- [DME Prior Authorization List](#)

**Effective**
February 2017: McKesson’s InterQual® criteria replaced the criteria as indicated in the policy.
July 2016: New medical policy.

**References:**