

Provider Documentation: Amputations

Documentation Tips & Best Practices

Did you know that documenting a patient's amputation status is key to reporting their health profile accurately?

Key elements to document are:

- Specific anatomical site: above the knee, below the knee, great toe, foot, ankle, etc.
- Laterality
- Document any additional problems related to the loss of a limb, such as:
 - Blood clots
 - Pain/phantom limb syndrome
 - Muscle weakness/contracture of compensatory structures
 - Contracture of stump
 - Psychological effects

Note that amputation status can be documented in the following areas of the medical record:

- Review of systems
- Past surgical procedures
- Past medical history
- Examination

Utilize MEAT (Monitor, Evaluate, Assess, Treat) to specifically address patient conditions:

Monitor	Evaluate	Assess	Treat
Signs Symptoms Disease progression Disease regression	Test results Medication effectiveness Response to treatment Physical exam findings	Test ordered Counseling Record review Discussion	Medication Therapies Referral Other modalities
MEAT Examples: Amputation			
Left foot amputation status – With type 2 diabetes, monitor blood sugars.	Acquired absence of right foot – Improvement in pain with Gabapentin.	Amputation status, above left knee, traumatic – Counseled patient on skin care and hygiene habits for amputation site.	Right ankle amputation status – Referred to foot & ankle specialist for consult.