

NEW AMPUTEES

YOUR TEMPORARY PROSTHESIS

Dear Prosthetic Patient,

You have been fitted with a **prosthesis** (*artificial limb*) that is considered ‘temporary’ only, to be used as a tool to evaluate your prosthetic capabilities, and to start your gait training as soon as possible.

The Temporary Prosthesis will not appear completely finished (covered with a cosmetic cover). Your condition may change over the months following your amputation, and you will need modifications to your device over time. Because your stump will change dramatically, eventually, depending on those changes and your overall condition, a new prosthesis will be made, sometimes called the ‘Definitive Prosthesis’.

It is important that you adhere to the following safety precautions and guidelines. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about your device, call **1-888-MDLABS-1**, and you will be set up with an appointment to see our one of our Prosthetists or Technicians.

If you are experiencing significant pain, or the device appears to be broken or missing parts, immediately stop using the device and call us at once.

PRECAUTIONS FOR TEMPORARY PROSTHETIC USE

Fully utilizing your new device may take a significant amount of time, effort, training and hard work. You may need a little or a lot of training. You may experience difficulty getting the device on and off (donning and doffing) if you’re a new and inexperienced amputee. Don’t be discouraged. Ask for assistance while you are learning and building up your strength and abilities

Sometimes your overall medical condition may slow your progress and ability to use your new prosthesis.

Your Prosthetist is available to help you, if you need it, **but you will need assistance at home and adequate training to properly use you device**

Following are some general guidelines. Please follow them. When in doubt, call our office and your Prosthetist will contact you as soon as possible to answer any questions or address any concerns.

- Always follow the directions of your Prosthetist, Doctor, or Physical Therapist
- Use your Stump Shrinker, or elastic wraps when not wearing the prosthesis.
- Keep your leg extended (knee straight) if you are sitting for long periods to avoid tightness.
- Never use your device without a shoe.
- Always use a mobility aid (crutches, canes, walker) to assist you while getting used to a new device.
- If you have never had a prosthesis before, you should always have someone with you for safety.
- If you have never had a prosthesis before, you should attend Physical Therapy for proper training and safety.
- If the device breaks, STOP using it and call us immediately
- If you experience significant pain, or develop a blister, STOP using it immediately and contact us. Take appropriate medical care of any blister
- Return at the appointed date and time for your follow up.
- Keep your residual limb (stump) clean
- Keep the inside of the socket clean,
- Wash any socks or liners per manufacturer's instructions.
- When using your device outside, take appropriate precautions for safety.
- Always use handrails or assistance when going up or down stairs.
- If you have a knee joint on your device, make sure the locking mechanism, (if it has one) is working properly every day.
- If your device breaks, if you experience severe pain, if any parts are missing or not working properly, STOP using the device and call

1 888 MD LABS 1