

# Lower Extremity Prosthetics (for North Carolina Only)

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 [Instructions for Use](#)

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## Related Policy

- [Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Medical Supplies, and Repairs/Replacements \(for North Carolina Only\)](#)

## Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of North Carolina.

## Coverage Rationale

### Indications for Coverage

Implantable devices/prostheses, such as artificial heart valves, are not prosthetics. If covered, these devices would be covered as a surgical service.

### Prosthetic Devices

For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [North Carolina Medicaid \(Division of Health Benefits\) Clinical Coverage Policy, Medical Equipment: 5B, Orthotics & Prosthetics](#).

### Servicing and Repairing Orthotic and Prosthetic Devices

For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [North Carolina Medicaid \(Division of Health Benefits\) Clinical Coverage Policy, Medical Equipment: 5B, Orthotics & Prosthetics](#).

## Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

HCPSC Code	Description
L5000	Partial foot, shoe insert with longitudinal arch, toe filler
L5010	Partial foot, molded socket, ankle height, with toe filler
L5050	Ankle, Symes, molded socket, sach foot
L5060	Ankle, Symes, metal frame, molded leather socket, articulated ankle/foot (SACH)
L5100	Below knee (BK), molded socket, shin, SACH foot
L5105	Below knee (BK), plastic socket, joints and thigh lacer, sach foot

HCPSC Code	Description
L5150	Knee disarticulation (or through knee), molded socket, external knee joints, shin, sach foot
L5160	Knee disarticulation (or through knee), molded socket, bent knee configuration, external knee joints, shin, sach foot
L5200	Above knee (AK), molded socket, single axis constant friction knee, shin, sach foot
L5210	Above knee (AK), short prosthesis, no knee joint (stubbies), with foot blocks, no ankle joints, each
L5220	Above knee (AK), short prosthesis, no knee joint (stubbies), with articulated ankle/foot, dynamically aligned, each
L5230	Above knee (AK), for proximal femoral focal deficiency, constant friction knee, shin, sach foot
L5250	Hip disarticulation, canadian type; molded socket, hip joint, single axis constant friction knee, shin, sach foot
L5270	Hip disarticulation, tilt table type; molded socket, locking hip joint, single axis constant friction knee, shin, sach foot
L5280	Hemipelvectomy, canadian type; molded socket, hip joint, single axis constant friction knee, shin, sach foot
L5301	Below knee (BK), molded socket, shin, sach foot, endoskeletal system
L5312	Knee disarticulation (or through knee), molded socket, single axis knee, pylon, sach foot, endoskeletal system
L5321	Above knee (AK), molded socket, open end, sach foot, endoskeletal system, single axis knee
L5331	Hip disarticulation, canadian type, molded socket, endoskeletal system, hip joint, single axis knee, sach foot
L5341	Hemipelvectomy, canadian type, molded socket, endoskeletal system, hip joint, single axis knee, sach foot
L5400	Immediate postsurgical or early fitting, application of initial rigid dressing, including fitting, alignment, suspension, and one cast change, below knee (BK)
L5410	Immediate postsurgical or early fitting, application of initial rigid dressing, including fitting, alignment and suspension, below knee (BK), each additional cast change and realignment
L5420	Immediate postsurgical or early fitting, application of initial rigid dressing, including fitting, alignment and suspension and one cast change 'ak' or knee disarticulation
L5430	Immediate postsurgical or early fitting, application of initial rigid dressing, including fitting, alignment and suspension, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation, each additional cast change and realignment
L5450	Immediate postsurgical or early fitting, application of non-weight bearing rigid dressing, below knee (BK)
L5460	Immediate postsurgical or early fitting, application of non-weight bearing rigid dressing, above knee (AK)
L5500	Initial, below knee (BK) PTB type socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, plaster socket, direct formed
L5505	Initial, above knee (AK), knee disarticulation, ischial level socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, plaster socket, direct formed
*L5510	Preparatory, below knee (BK) PTB type socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, plaster socket, molded to model
*L5520	Preparatory, below knee (BK) PTB type socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, thermoplastic or equal, direct formed
L5530	Preparatory, below knee (BK) PTB type socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, thermoplastic or equal, molded to model
L5535	Preparatory, below knee (BK) PTB type socket, nonalignable system, no cover, SACH foot, prefabricated, adjustable open-end socket
L5540	Preparatory, below knee (BK) PTB type socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, laminated socket, molded to model

HCPSC Code	Description
L5560	Preparatory, above knee (AK) - knee disarticulation, ischial level socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, plaster socket, molded to model
L5570	Preparatory, above knee (AK) - knee disarticulation, ischial level socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, thermoplastic or equal, direct formed
L5580	Preparatory, above knee (AK) - knee disarticulation ischial level socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, thermoplastic or equal, molded to model
L5585	Preparatory, above knee (AK) - knee disarticulation, ischial level socket, nonalignable system, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, prefabricated adjustable open-end socket
L5590	Preparatory, above knee (AK) - knee disarticulation ischial level socket, nonalignable system, pylon no cover, SACH foot, laminated socket, molded to model
L5595	Preparatory, hip disarticulation-hemipelvectomy, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, thermoplastic or equal, molded to patient model
L5600	Preparatory, hip disarticulation-hemipelvectomy, pylon, no cover, SACH foot, laminated socket, molded to patient model
L5610	Addition to lower extremity, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), hydracadence system
L5611	Addition to lower extremity, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), knee disarticulation, four-bar linkage, with friction swing phase control
L5613	Addition to lower extremity, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), knee disarticulation, four-bar linkage, with hydraulic swing phase control
L5614	Addition to lower extremity, exoskeletal system, above knee (AK), knee disarticulation, four-bar linkage, with pneumatic swing phase control
*L5615	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, 4 bar linkage or multiaxial, fluid swing and stance phase control
L5616	Addition to lower extremity, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), universal multiplex system, friction swing phase control
*L5617	Addition to lower extremity, quick change self-aligning unit, above knee (AK) or below knee (BK), each
L5618	Addition to lower extremity, test socket, Symes
L5620	Addition to lower extremity, test socket, below knee (BK)
L5622	Addition to lower extremity, test socket, knee disarticulation
L5624	Addition to lower extremity, test socket, above knee (AK)
L5626	Addition to lower extremity, test socket, hip disarticulation
L5628	Addition to lower extremity, test socket, hemipelvectomy
L5629	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), acrylic socket
L5630	Addition to lower extremity, Symes type, expandable wall socket
L5631	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation, acrylic socket
*L5632	Addition to lower extremity, Symes type, 'ptb' brim design socket
L5634	Addition to lower extremity, Symes type, posterior opening (canadian) socket
L5636	Addition to lower extremity, Symes type, medial opening socket
*L5637	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), total contact
*L5638	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), leather socket
L5639	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), wood socket
L5640	Addition to lower extremity, knee disarticulation, leather socket
L5642	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), leather socket
L5643	Addition to lower extremity, hip disarticulation, flexible inner socket, external frame
*L5644	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), wood socket
L5645	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), flexible inner socket, external frame
L5646	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), air, fluid, gel or equal, cushion socket

HCPSC Code	Description
L5647	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK) suction socket
L5648	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), air, fluid, gel or equal, cushion socket
L5649	Addition to lower extremity, ischial containment/narrow M_L socket
L5650	Additions to lower extremity, total contact, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation socket
L5651	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), flexible inner socket, external frame
L5652	Addition to lower extremity, suction suspension, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation socket
L5653	Addition to lower extremity, knee disarticulation, expandable wall socket
L5654	Addition to lower extremity, socket insert, Symes, (kemblo, pelite, aliplast, plastazote or equal)
L5655	Addition to lower extremity, socket insert, below knee (BK) (kemblo, pelite, aliplast, plastazote or equal)
L5656	Addition to lower extremity, socket insert, knee disarticulation (kemblo, pelite, aliplast, plastazote or equal)
L5658	Addition to lower extremity, socket insert, above knee (AK) (kemblo, pelite, aliplast, plastazote or equal)
*L5661	Addition to lower extremity, socket insert, multidurometer Symes
*L5665	Addition to lower extremity, socket insert, multidurometer, below knee (BK)
L5666	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), cuff suspension
*L5668	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), molded distal cushion
L5670	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), molded supracondylar suspension (PTS or similar)
L5671	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK)/above knee (AK) suspension locking mechanism (shuttle, lanyard or equal), excludes socket insert
L5672	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), removable medial brim suspension
L5673	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK)/above knee (AK), custom fabricated from existing mold or prefabricated, socket insert, silicone gel, elastomeric or equal, for use with locking mechanism
L5676	Additions to lower extremity, below knee (BK), knee joints, single axis, pair
L5677	Additions to lower extremity, below knee (BK), knee joints, polycentric, pair
L5678	Additions to lower extremity, below knee (BK), joint covers, pair
L5679	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK)/above knee (AK), custom fabricated from existing mold or prefabricated, socket insert, silicone gel, elastomeric or equal, not for use with locking mechanism
L5680	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), thigh lacer, nonmolded
L5681	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK)/above knee (AK), custom fabricated socket insert for congenital or atypical traumatic amputee, silicone gel, elastomeric or equal, for use with or without locking mechanism, initial only (for other than initial, use code L5673 or L5679)
L5682	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), thigh lacer, gluteal/ischial, molded
L5683	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK)/above knee (AK), custom fabricated socket insert for other than congenital or atypical traumatic amputee, silicone gel, elastomeric or equal, for use with or without locking mechanism, initial only (for other than initial, use code L5673 or L5679)
L5684	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), fork strap
L5685	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, below knee (BK), suspension/sealing sleeve, with or without valve, any material, each
L5686	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), back check (extension control)
L5688	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), waist belt, webbing
L5690	Addition to lower extremity, below knee (BK), waist belt, padded and lined
L5692	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), pelvic control belt, light
L5694	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), pelvic control belt, padded and lined
L5695	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK), pelvic control, sleeve suspension, neoprene or equal, each

HCPSC Code	Description
L5696	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation, pelvic joint
L5697	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation, pelvic band
L5698	Addition to lower extremity, above knee (AK) or knee disarticulation, Silesian bandage
*L5699	All lower extremity prostheses, shoulder harness
*L5700	Replacement, socket, below knee (BK), molded to patient model
L5701	Replacement, socket, above knee (AK)/knee disarticulation, including attachment plate, molded to patient model
L5702	Replacement, socket, hip disarticulation, including hip joint, molded to patient model
L5703	Ankle, Symes, molded to patient model, socket without solid ankle cushion heel (SACH) foot, replacement only
L5704	Custom shaped protective cover, below knee (BK)
L5705	Custom shaped protective cover, above knee (AK)
L5706	Custom shaped protective cover, knee disarticulation
L5707	Custom shaped protective cover, hip disarticulation
L5711	Additions exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, manual lock, ultra-light material
L5712	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, friction swing and stance phase control (safety knee)
L5714	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, variable friction swing phase control
L5716	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, polycentric, mechanical stance phase lock
L5718	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, polycentric, friction swing and stance phase control
L5722	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, pneumatic swing, friction stance phase control
L5724	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, fluid swing phase control
L5726	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, external joints fluid swing phase control
L5728	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, fluid swing and stance phase control
L5780	Addition, exoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, pneumatic/hydra pneumatic swing phase control
L5785	Addition, exoskeletal system, below knee (BK), ultra-light material (titanium, carbon fiber or equal)
L5790	Addition, exoskeletal system, above knee (AK), ultra-light material (titanium, carbon fiber or equal)
L5795	Addition, exoskeletal system, hip disarticulation, ultra-light material (titanium, carbon fiber or equal)
L5810	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, manual lock
L5811	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, manual lock, ultra-light material
L5812	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, friction swing and stance phase control (safety knee)
L5814	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, polycentric, hydraulic swing phase control, mechanical stance phase lock
L5816	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, polycentric, mechanical stance phase lock
L5818	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, polycentric, friction swing, and stance phase control
L5822	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, pneumatic swing, friction stance phase control
L5824	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, fluid swing phase control
L5826	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, hydraulic swing phase control, with miniature high activity frame
*L5827	Endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, electromechanical swing and stance phase control, with or without shock absorption and stance extension damping
L5828	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, fluid swing and stance phase control
L5830	Addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, single axis, pneumatic/swing phase control
L5840	Addition, endoskeletal knee/shin system, 4-bar linkage or multiaxial, pneumatic swing phase control
L5845	Addition, endoskeletal, knee-shin system, stance flexion feature, adjustable



HCPSC Code	Description
L5848	Addition to endoskeletal knee-shin system, fluid stance extension, dampening feature, with or without adjustability
L5850	Addition, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK) or hip disarticulation, knee extension assist
*L5855	Addition, endoskeletal system, hip disarticulation, mechanical hip extension assist
*L5856	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, endoskeletal knee-shin system, microprocessor control feature, swing and stance phase, includes electronic sensor(s), any type
*L5857	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, endoskeletal knee-shin system, microprocessor control feature, swing phase only, includes electronic sensor(s), any type
*L5858	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, endoskeletal knee shin system, microprocessor control feature, stance phase only, includes electronic sensor(s), any type
*L5859	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, endoskeletal knee-shin system, powered and programmable flexion/extension assist control, includes any type motor(s)
*L5910	Addition, endoskeletal system, below knee (BK), alignable system
L5920	Addition, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK) or hip disarticulation, alignable system
*L5925	Addition, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), knee disarticulation or hip disarticulation, manual lock
L5926	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, endoskeletal, knee disarticulation, above knee, hip disarticulation, positional rotation unit, any type
L5930	Addition, endoskeletal system, high activity knee control frame
L5940	Addition, endoskeletal system, below knee (BK), ultra-light material (titanium, carbon fiber or equal)
L5950	Addition, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), ultra-light material (titanium, carbon fiber or equal)
L5960	Addition, endoskeletal system, hip disarticulation, ultra-light material (titanium, carbon fiber or equal)
L5961	Addition, endoskeletal system, polycentric hip joint, pneumatic or hydraulic control, rotation control, with or without flexion and/or extension control
L5962	Addition, endoskeletal system, below knee (BK), flexible protective outer surface covering system
L5964	Addition, endoskeletal system, above knee (AK), flexible protective outer surface covering system
L5966	Addition, endoskeletal system, hip disarticulation, flexible protective outer surface covering system
L5968	Addition to lower limb prosthesis, multiaxial ankle with swing phase active dorsiflexion feature
*L5969	Addition, endoskeletal ankle-foot or ankle system, power assist, includes any type motor(s)
*L5970	All lower extremity prostheses, foot, external keel, sach foot
L5971	All lower extremity prosthesis, solid ankle cushion heel (sach) foot, replacement only
L5972	All lower extremity prostheses, foot, flexible keel
*L5973	Endoskeletal ankle foot system, microprocessor-controlled feature, dorsiflexion and/or plantar flexion control, includes power source
L5974	All lower extremity prostheses, foot, single axis ankle/foot
*L5975	All lower extremity prosthesis, combination single axis ankle and flexible keel foot
L5976	All lower extremity prostheses, energy storing foot (Seattle Carbon Copy II or equal)
L5978	All lower extremity prostheses, foot, multiaxial ankle/foot
L5979	All lower extremity prosthesis, multiaxial ankle, dynamic response foot, one piece system
L5980	All lower extremity prostheses, flex foot system
L5981	All lower extremity prostheses, flex-walk system or equal
L5982	All exoskeletal lower extremity prostheses, axial rotation unit
L5984	All endoskeletal lower extremity prosthesis, axial rotation unit, with or without adjustability
L5985	All endoskeletal lower extremity prostheses, dynamic prosthetic pylon
L5986	All lower extremity prostheses, multiaxial rotation unit (MCP or equal)
L5987	All lower extremity prosthesis, shank foot system with vertical loading pylon
L5988	Addition to lower limb prosthesis, vertical shock reducing pylon feature

HCPCS Code	Description
*L5990	Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, user adjustable heel height
L5999	Lower extremity prosthesis, not otherwise specified
*L7367	Lithium-ion battery, rechargeable, replacement
*L7368	Lithium-ion battery charger, replacement only
L7510	Repair of prosthetic device, repair or replace minor parts
L7600	Prosthetic donning sleeve, any material, each
*L7700	Gasket or seal, for use with prosthetic socket insert, any type, each
L8400	Prosthetic sheath, below knee (BK), each
L8410	Prosthetic sheath, above knee (AK), each
*L8417	Prosthetic sheath/sock, including a gel cushion layer, below knee (BK) or above knee (AK), each
L8420	Prosthetic sock, multiple ply, below knee (BK), each
L8430	Prosthetic sock, multiple ply, above knee (AK), each
L8440	Prosthetic shrinker, below knee (BK), each
L8460	Prosthetic shrinker, above knee (AK), each
L8470	Prosthetic sock, single ply, fitting, below knee (BK), each
L8480	Prosthetic sock, single ply, fitting, above knee (AK), each

Codes labeled with an asterisk (\*) are not on the State of North Carolina Medicaid Fee Schedule and therefore may not be covered by the State of North Carolina Medicaid Program.

## Description of Services

A prosthesis is an artificial device used to replace all or part a missing body part and is intended to restore normal function. Meier and Melton (2014) identify the most common levels of amputations for the lower limb are the transtibial (TT) (below knee, BK) and the transfemoral (TF) (above knee, AK). The prosthesis is a tool that helps the single-limb amputee gain functional independence. Ideally, lower limb amputees should be able to accomplish things such as ambulation with prosthesis on level and uneven surfaces, stairs, ramps, and curbs, independent with dressing, and return to work with or without modifications.

## U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Prosthetic devices and components are classified by the FDA as Class I medical devices. Class I devices have the least amount of regulatory control; manufacturers of these devices are exempt from the premarket notification procedures and are not required to provide safety and effectiveness data prior to marketing. Examples of these devices include “ankle, foot, hip, knee, and socket components; mechanical or powered hand, hook, wrist unit, elbow joint, and shoulder joint components; and cable and prosthesis suction valves.” For additional information, refer to: [www.fda.gov/medical-devices](http://www.fda.gov/medical-devices). (Accessed January 7, 2025)

The OPRA TM Implant System is an Osseo anchored Prostheses for the Rehabilitation of Amputees (OPRA) device and composed of parts that allow a prosthesis to attach directly to the femur (thigh bone). The device was granted FDA premarket approval on December 18, 2020. For additional information, refer to: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpma/pma.cfm?id=P190009>. (Accessed January 7, 2025)

## References

North Carolina Medicaid, Division of Health Benefits, Clinical Coverage Policies, Orthotics & Prosthetics, No: 5B. Available at: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/5b-orthotics-prosthetics/download?attachment>. Accessed January 7, 2025.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
05/01/2025	<p><b>Applicable Codes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updated list of applicable HCPCS codes to reflect quarterly edits; added L5827</li></ul> <p><b>Supporting Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Archived previous policy version CSNCT0361.03</li></ul>

Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, please check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.