

What is a Microprocessor Knee?

- A type of above knee prosthetic limb produced by Otto Bock Orthopaedic Industry Inc. that incorporates a computerized microprocessor-controlled knee joint.

How are Microprocessor Knees approved for WCB claimants?

- A number of different prosthetic designs are available to amputees and the WCB believes that the selection of the appropriate prosthesis is one very critical component in the overall rehabilitation and return to work process for the Worker. Which prosthesis may be appropriate depends on many factors including level of leg amputation, physical and psychological co-morbid conditions, prior level of functioning, work and home environment, worker preference etc.
- To assist the treating team in identifying whether a Microprocessor Knee is the most appropriate prosthesis, the WCB utilized the Prosthetic and Orthotic advisory committee to develop a set of guiding criteria. The criteria are based on indications for use and safety parameters set out by the manufacturer of the Microprocessor Knee and are divided into four categories as follows:
 - Work
 - Medical
 - Functional
 - Environmental Safety
- The WCB believes that a multidisciplinary evaluation conducted by the Worker's treating team is the best way to evaluate the criteria. This includes a three part assessment by the Worker's:
 - treating physician,
 - treating prosthetist; and
 - a Return to Work clinician (Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist) who will conduct an environmental assessment with the Worker at their worksite (if applicable).

The Worker must meet all the criteria and all members of the assessment team must support the Microprocessor Knee option in order for the Microprocessor Knee to be approved.

What is your role in the approval process?

- To complete the prosthetists portion of the assessment.

How do you initiate the Microprocessor Knee review process/what are the steps involved?

- If you feel a Worker would benefit from a Microprocessor Knee, enter into a dialogue with the worker regarding the pros and cons of the prosthesis.
 - A Worker Microprocessor Knee fact sheet has been developed which you can review with the worker.
 - Utilize the Microprocessor Knee patient evaluation protocol to evaluate whether the Microprocessor Knee would be the best option.

- If the Worker would like to proceed with making a Microprocessor Knee Request, instruct them to contact their Claim Owner to discuss whether they would be entitled to a microprocessor device.
- The Worker's Claim Owner will review the request to ensure the claimant meets the "Work Criteria" of the Microprocessor Knee. The Claim Owner will contact you to advise that a) they do not meet the initial Work criteria or b) that they do and you should proceed with completing the Prosthetist Microprocessor Knee Assessment (Form C989).
- When completing the Prosthetist Microprocessor Knee Assessment Form, answer the criteria questions objectively. In the comments/recommendation section for each question, include any objective details relevant to the criteria with a focus on supporting the Worker in their goal attainment of the Microprocessor Knee (e.g. If the Worker is currently only at a Mobility Grade Level 1 but could obtain a level 3 with physical therapy treatment, include that recommendation in the report). Ensure that any recommendations are achievable as it is unfair to create unrealistic expectations in the Worker which may hamper their return to work process. Complete and submit the report to the WCB as soon as possible.
- The Claim Owner will request a Microprocessor Knee Assessment from the Worker's Physician and a worksite clinician at the same time. Once all three assessment reports have been submitted and reviewed, the Claim Owner will inform the Worker and you in writing of the decision. The decision may be:
 - An immediate approval;
 - Approval pending attainment of one of the criteria; or
 - Non approval.
- If the Microprocessor Knee has been approved, you will be contacted by Health Care Services (HCS) to confirm the fee via the unlisted device methodology outlined in the contract. You will receive written confirmation of the fee from HCS.
- Book a fitting appointment for the Worker as soon as possible. Ensure you review the Microprocessor Knee instructions for use and warranty conditions for the Worker and provide all required training. Summarize the Worker's response to the fitting in the Microprocessor Knee Fitting Summary Form (C).

* All Microprocessor Knee forms will be posted on the WCB website (www.wcb.ab.ca) under the Health Care Provider tab.**If you have any questions about the Microprocessor Knee process, contact the Prosthetic and Orthotic Health Care Consultant at 780-498-3232.

MICROPROCESSOR KNEE CRITERIA

CRITERIA	ASSESSOR
WORK CRITERIA	
Rationale: The WCB's mandate is to involve the injured Worker, employer, health care providers(s) in a cooperative relationship aimed at getting the Worker back to work safely, as soon as possible.	
*1. Worker is employed or Worker is capable of returning to work and is actively engaged in a job search	Claim Owner
MEDICAL CRITERIA	
Rationale: Physical instability issues and other medical conditions, both compensable and non compensable, can impact the fit, use and safety of the Microprocessor Knee. Progression to full utilization of a standard prosthesis ensures that the Worker is at a stage where they will be able to fully utilize and benefit from the Microprocessor Knee.	
2. Worker is medically stable	Treating Physician
3. Worker is in a permanent socket and can tolerate wearing their current prosthesis for a minimum of 5 hours a day/7 days a week.	Treating Physician
4. Worker's weight is below 275 pounds <i>Otto Bock Instructions for Use: 1.2 Field of Application, pg. 24</i>	Treating Physician
FUNCTIONAL CRITERIA	
Rationale: The manufacturer of the Microprocessor Knee (Otto Bock) has outlined client functional criteria for which the Microprocessor Knee was ideally developed for. Workers who do not meet the suggested functional criteria will not fully benefit from the Microprocessor Knee. Source: www.ottobock.ca/products/lower_limb_prosthetics/c-legtechnical.asp	
5. Worker is through knee or above amputee.	Prosthetist
*6. Worker needs to walk on uneven terrain during the course of a work day.	RTWPM clinician
*7. Worker frequently needs to descend stairs or negotiate steps during the course of a work day.	RTWPM clinician
*8. Worker is currently or has the potential to be an unlimited community ambulatory (Otto Bock Mobility Grade Level 3 or 4).	Prosthetist
*9. Worker needs to walk faster than a normal walking speed and vary their cadence during the course of a work day.	RTWPM clinician
*10. Worker is involved in activities requiring a high level of stance phase safety as well as efficient swing phase control during the course of a work day.	Prosthetist
*11. Worker needs to change direction and speed suddenly during the course of a work day.	RTWPM clinician
*12. Worker would benefit from automatic swing phase adjustments because of their daily activities.	Prosthetist
*13. Worker needs to stand for long periods of time during the course of a work day.	RTWPM clinician
ENVIRONMENTAL/SAFETY CRITERIA	
Rationale: The manufacturer of the Microprocessor Knee (Otto Bock) has outlined the environmental conditions under which the Microprocessor Knee will safely and optimally operate. Source: <i>Otto Bock Instructions for Use, Canadian Microprocessor Knee terms of Warranty</i>	
14. Worker is not exposed to an environment which deviates from Microprocessor Knee operating and storage limitations (-10C to +60C working temperature in the knee unit, not the ambient temperature) while at work. <i>Otto Bock Instructions for Use: 3.3 Technical Information, pg. 40</i>	RTWPM clinician
15. Worker is not exposed to an environment with intense smoke, dust, mechanical vibrations or jolts while at work. <i>Otto Bock Instructions for Use: 1.5 General Safety Instructions, pg. 26</i>	RTWPM clinician
16. Worker is not exposed to an environment with strong magnetic or electric interference while at work. <i>Otto Bock Instructions for Use: 1.5 General Safety Instructions, pg. 26</i>	RTWPM clinician
17. Worker is not exposed to an environment with excessive moisture while at work. <i>Otto Bock Instructions for Use: 1.5 General Safety Instructions, pg. 26</i>	RTWPM clinician
18. Worker has the cognitive ability and the living situation that is consistent with proper care of the Microprocessor Knee. <i>Indications for Otto Bock Microprocessor knees, Contraindication</i>	Prosthetist
Exceptions: The claim owner may waive criteria with an * with Manager approval.	