



British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine  
C/o Royal College of Physicians  
11 St Andrews Place  
London NW1 4LE  
Tel: 01992 638865  
Fax: 01992 638674  
admin@bsrm.co.uk  
www.bsrm.co.uk

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Ms Sue Charlesworth (Chair of National Prosthetic Centre Managers Group)  
Operations Manager  
Specialist Mobility and Rehabilitation Centre  
Watling Street Road  
Fulwood, Preston  
Lancs PR2 8DY

Dear Ms Charlsworth

### **Service Specification for Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation Services**

Further to our recent response to the draft service specification, if it is not too late the BSRM wishes the group to consider the additional comments below which I have received after the deadline but which are I hope helpful in strengthening the document:

1. The document would be enhanced by an additional paragraph to inform the reader of the purpose of the document eg is it aimed at Centres and its management or is it aimed at commissioners? Alternatively, is it just a draft that can be used as a service level document?
2. The Report refers to the BSRM standards Document. However, it is important to refer specifically to article 4.5, page16, where the three levels of prosthetic services are referred to as Tertiary Referral PARC, The PARC and the Lower Limb PARC. As this not only refers to the level of service (no matter what one calls the Centre) it also suggests the type of cases and hence resources required. Ideally all Centres should clarify what they represent as far as the service is concerned - eg Tertiary Centre, in which case they should have provision for Congenital Limb Deficiency, Children and Complex limb loss. Alternatively they may be a Lower Limb PARC and require appropriate staff and resources. This is the basis of a service specification and is missing.
3. There is no reference to specialist or joint/combined clinics. Many (especially Major Centres) hold combined clinics eg: Stanmore has Limb Deficiency Clinics with a Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon; Roehampton has a combined clinic with an Orthopaedic Surgeon for revision Surgery. Manchester DSC holds combined clinics with Plastic Surgeons, separately for lower limb amputees and upper limb amputees/limb loss and Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeons. These should also be included in the service specification because of their value and also to ensure appropriate funding.
4. Section 7 of the Report refers to Quality and Performance. However, this appears to deal with Performance Indicators for Contract Purposes only. There is little or no reference to Clinical Audit, Continuing Professional Development and other Education and Training. This is an important aspect of the service for which Management support is essential and hence this too should be included in the Service Specification.
5. The work of the Prosthetic Services includes wider training issues outside the Centre eg advising surgeons and other departments with the aims of improving the quality of amputation surgery and appropriate referrals from Paediatricians and Obstetricians and so on. This aspect of the service should also be included.

We would be happy to discuss this further if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

*Sandy Weatherhead*  
**Executive Secretary**