

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, the Amputee Coalition attended a meeting with Senior Medicare (CMS) officials from their Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, including Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Shari Ling, M.D. The Amputee Coalition was represented by Sue Stout, President/CEO, Dan Ignaszewski, Director of Government Relations, Jack Richmond, Chair-Elect Board of Directors, Dr. Terrence Sheehan, Medical Director, and Dr. Danielle Melton, Immediate Past Chair for our Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee.

The meeting provided the Amputee Coalition the opportunity to clearly lay out the concerns we had with the LCD draft proposal and the concern about the impact that these changes would have on the limb loss community. We highlighted all of the key concerns in our initial comments submitted to CMS and the DME MACs including:

- Medicare would no longer consider patient's **potential** in determining their functional level
- If your medical record referenced certain health complications or if you couldn't attain the "appearance of a natural gait," patient's could be denied a device or limited to a less functional device
- The use of assistive devices would automatically limit a patient's functional level and therefore the type of device they could receive
- Fundamentally altering the path of amputee rehabilitation by requiring patient's to rehab on out-of-date technology
- Combining feet and ankles would significantly harm patient's access to the feet and ankles that best meet their needs
- The elimination of coverage for active suction socket systems and limitations in liners and other components

Throughout the meeting, CMS officials recognized and understood each of the significant concerns we had with the contents of the draft proposal and indicated that they would take our comments and concerns into their discussions with the DME MACs to insure patients have appropriate access to prosthetic care.

The meeting was an important step in addressing the concerns with the draft LCD and was very successful. In addition to understanding the concerns, the CMS Officials in the meeting also indicated to us the importance of submitting additional comments outlining our specific suggested changes or deletions in the LCD. As a result of the meeting, the Amputee Coalition will be sending additional comments before the August 31st deadline outlining specific changes that should be made in the proposal to address the Amputee Coalition's concerns.