

Technical Information

Guidelines for care and safety standards for Steeper upper limb prostheses

Your prosthetic arm has been manufactured exclusively for your use. Please take note of this information combined with the support from your prosthetist and clinical team in your use of your prosthesis.

Use

Your prosthesist and occupational therapist will help you to be proficient in the use and control of your artificial limb. You may attend training sessions where different aspects of your everyday activities will be explored. You can get the most from training by listing and suggesting those things that you want to achieve. You can then work through this list with your team. Training will take time and perseverance is needed. You should work with your team to ensure that the limb is comfortable, secure and functional. Please tell them if you feel there is an unresolved problem, as sometimes an alternative strategy or other equipment may provide you with a better solution.

Care

We do not recommend that you adjust, dismantle, attempt to maintain, or modify your artificial arm. If it does not function as you think it should contact your prosthetist who will advise you if maintenance is required.

You should inspect your artificial arm regularly to identify potential problems early. Some replacement parts and batteries can be supplied for you to fit at home.

Two glove materials are in routine clinical use. PVC, which is hard wearing but can be stained and silicone, which is more stain resistant but under some circumstances can be damaged by abrasion or puncturing. Please ask your prosthetist which type of glove you have been provided with. If you need to fit spares at home, discuss how you should do this. You may need help and training. A light coating of a water-based jelly is used during the replacement process. PVC gloves have to be gently heated using a hair dryer to make fitting easier; however, this is not necessary with silicone gloves. Please make sure you have a replacement before removing the glove that is damaged.

If water, perspiration, steam, snow, dust or sand enter the internal components of the arm, corrosion and component failure may occur. Inspect the arm regularly for glove damage, since cuts and tears will allow these elements to penetrate the prosthesis.

Cleaning PVC gloves is possible to some extent but dyes and inks penetrate the surface in a few seconds. Alcohol wipes will remove some surface discolouration and disperse dyes if used immediately; keep some with you for this purpose. Frequent use of wipes will eventually change the surface of the PVC gloves, if soiling is a continual problem, a silicone glove may be a better option. These can be washed with soap and water, which will remove most stains.

Safety

Treat your artificial arm as if it were your own.

- Do not expose it to a naked flame or excessive heat
- Take care not to touch live electrical equipment

Avoid impacts and do not subject the arm to excessive loads, particularly if your safety relies on the integrity of the arm and the suspension that holds it in place.

If you have a particular occupational or recreational activity that may overload the arm please discuss it with your prosthetist. It may be possible to design or adapt your arm so that it is suitable for your special requirements. Myoelectric prosthesis should not be activated when driving. Whilst using a Myoelectric device to drive a motor vehicle or other activities that could cause injury/harm to the end user when being used; the end user must open the fingers and thumb to allow the hand to be disconnected then turn the POWER OFF to the custom prosthesis/socket or the hand itself.

Hygiene

Because the socket is an enclosed environment in intimate contact with your body it can form an ideal place for bacteria and fungi to multiply. This may lead to skin problems that require medical treatment. If you notice any unusual skin conditions discuss them with the clinical team. It is good practice to wipe the inside of the socket daily with antiseptic and clean the socket afterwards to avoid irritation. Be sure to care for your residual limb. If you use a sock or liner change and clean it everyday. Socks should be allowed to dry naturally after hand washing or follow the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure any lining or harness is changed at least once a year to minimise hygiene problems.

Resist the urge to put the cosmetic glove into your mouth as it may be unclean.

Battery Packs - Technical Description

Power Supply: 6V Lithium-Ion Rechargeable Battery Pack OR 7.4V Lithium Polymer Rechargeable Battery Pack.

Please ensure that you use the correct charger for the battery pack that you are currently using.

You MUST NOT ATTEMPT to charge Lithium Ion batteries with the charger designed for Nickel Cadmium batteries or Nickel Cadmium batteries with the charger designed for Lithium Ion or Lithium Polymer batteries.

Disposal

If you outgrow your prosthesis or no longer need it, please return it to your clinic. Cosmetic gloves can be disposed of in household rubbish but it is sometimes helpful for the prosthetist to see how the failure has occurred.

Batteries that no longer hold their charge should be returned to your prosthetist for proper disposal.

EMC Compatability

The Steeper Myoelectric Arm System meets the requirements for Emissions

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