(Your company letterhead)

Date:

Address:

Dear (Name of provider):

(Patient name) is currently under my care for fitting of a (preparatory/definitive) prosthesis. (Patient name) is a (age) year-old (man/woman) who has suffered an amputation at the (transtibial/transfemoral) level. (Include applicable medical history here: reason for amputation, progress with previous prostheses, issues with previous prostheses, history of trip and falls, etc.)

(Patient name) qualifies as a K2 level ambulator. This means that he/she is capable of ambulating at a fixed cadence and has the ability or potential for ambulation with navigation of low-level environmental barriers such as curbs, stairs, or uneven surfaces within his/her community. (Include details of daily use of the prosthesis including possible vocation, hobbies, recreational activities and how they relate to the function of the Odyssey K2)

I plan to fit (Patient name) with a prosthesis that incorporates the Odyssey K2 Hydraulic Foot/Ankle System in order to accommodate the requirements of her/his daily activities. The Odyssey K2 utilizes the following billing codes, including the definition each:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HCPCS CODE** | **DEFINTION** |
| L5972 | ALL LOWER EXTREMITY PROSTHESES, FOOT, FLEXIBLE KEEL |
| L5968 | Addition to lower limb prosthesis, multiaxial ankle with swing phase active dorsiflexion feature |

**Justification for Odyssey K2 Foot/Ankle System**

The goal of a prosthesis is to provide a replacement for the portion of the body that is no longer intact. This replacement should provide function that matches the normal human kinematics as closely as possible to ensure that the prosthetic wearer regains as much of their lost function as possible. Passive prosthetic feet are lacking in their ability to simulate the motion of the anatomical ankle joint in gait since they return to a “neutral” or 90° position when unweighted in swing phase. Specifically, they do not provide or maintain a dorsiflexed position of the foot and ankle complex in swing phase or provide a controlled plantar flexion motion at early stance phase. This function or motion is even more important when an amputee is walking on ground that is not flat and level. (Mr/Mrs Patient Name) regularly encounters low level environmental barriers such as ramps, sloped yards and driveways, and generally irregular terrain while walking in and around their community completing the daily tasks. The ability to navigate these barriers is often taken for granted by those without an amputation, however, without an adaptable prosthetic device these barriers can limit where the amputee feels comfortable going within their community and may limit their access to certain areas and activities. While navigating these environments with a passive or static prosthetic foot (Mr/Mrs Patient Name) experiences increased residual limb discomfort, increased instability, and premature fatigue due to the limited amount of motion provided by such a foot. The use of a prosthetic foot with an articulating ankle will significantly improve (Patient name’s) stability and socket comfort when navigating their daily environment.

The College Park Odyssey K2 foot provides the benefits of a flexible keel and multi-axial foot platform combined with the a hydraulically controlled ankle joint. The 12 degrees of hydraulic ankle motion works in tandem with the Intelliweave flexible composite heel and keel segments. This combination provides up to 27° of ankle motion range with the foot flat on the ground to increase that amputee’s stability. The combination of composite heel compression and hydraulic dampening of plantarflexion on heel strike and loading response allows the patient to reach foot flat quickly, providing knee stability by reducing the knee flexion moment within the prosthetic socket. The composite multi-axial motion also accommodates uneven terrain with excellent ground compliance. Loading of the Intelliweave composite keel from mid-stance to toe-off stores energy in the foot that then translates to forward propulsion and facilitates smooth weight transfer to the contralateral limb.

In addition to increased stability in stance phase of gait, the hydraulic ankle range of motion provides benefits when the amputee is in quiet standing on uneven surfaces such as ramps, driveways, or lawns. The 12° allows the patient to find a comfortable balance point and not feel as though their knee is being pushed forward or backward causing discomfort in the joint and within the prosthetic socket. While sitting down, passive prosthetic feet remain in a neutral position causing the toes to point up while the heel is on the ground. While this may seem like a cosmetic issue, this can also lead to excessive pressures on the posterior proximal aspect of the prosthetic socket for (Mr./Mrs Patient). With the Odyssey K2 foot, the patient can plantarflex the prosthetic ankle joint and get the foot flat to the ground, thereby reducing proximal posterior socket pressure and increasing comfort in sitting.

While stance phase stability and sitting comfort are beneficial attributes of a hydraulically controlled prosthetic foot and ankle complex, perhaps the biggest benefit provided is during swing phase of gait. Close to 50% of all ambulatory amputees report a trip and fall incident within the course of a year. Each year falls cost the health care industry over $30 billion in hospital and ER visits including the risk of severe injury. Studies have shown that increasing minimum toe clearance (MTC) in swing phase of gait decreases the likelihood of a trip on an unexpected hazard. (Patient name) regularly encounters carpet transitions, door thresholds, grass, and uneven sidewalks or walkways throughout his/her daily activities. He/she has had a trip and fall incident in the past with a passive prosthetic foot. The hydraulic ankle unit on the Odyssey K2 will maintain the dorsiflexed position achieved during late stance phase throughout the swing phase of gait, thereby increasing MTC and reducing the likelihood of a trip and fall relative to a passive prosthetic foot.

In conclusion, the Odyssey K2 Hydraulic Foot/Ankle System will provide (Mr./Mrs Patient) the many benefits listed above including knee stability, ground compliance, and improved swing phase mechanics. Most importantly, however, incorporating the Odyssey K2 foot into (Mr./Mrs Patient’s) new prosthesis will and providing these benefits will improve their quality of life by increasing their mobility and decreasing discomfort and instability in their prosthesis.

I hope that you will agree to assist in providing these benefits to (Mr./Mrs Patient). If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me to discuss them.

Sincerely,

Clinician Name

Contact Information