

**PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE  
STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE GROUP**

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive updates Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy concerning uniform and consistent national procedures for providing prosthetic and sensory aids and services to veteran beneficiaries.
- 2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES:** Revision and update for VHA Manual M-2, Part IX, dated May 28, 1986.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES:** VHA Handbooks 1173.1 through VHA Handbook 1173.15
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Chief Consultant, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Strategic Healthcare Group (113), is responsible for the contents of this VHA Directive. Questions may be referred to 202-273-8515.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** VHA Manual M-2, Part IX, dated May 28, 1986, and all changes are rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** The document is scheduled for recertification on/or before the last working day of July 2005.

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Under Secretary for Health

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**PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE  
STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE GROUP**

**1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive updates the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy concerning uniform and consistent national procedures and policy for providing prosthetic and sensory aids and services at all field stations and to veteran beneficiaries.

**2. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that quality patient care will be provided by furnishing properly prescribed prosthetic equipment, sensory aids, and/or devices in the most economical and timely manner for the benefit of the disabled veteran within the legal limitations of VA.

**3. ACTION:** VHA Headquarters Prosthetic and Sensory Aid Strategic Healthcare Group is responsible for establishing policy and procedures concerning uniform and consistent prosthetic and sensory aids and services to veteran beneficiaries.

**4. DEFINITIONS:** The following VHA Handbooks 1173.1 through 1173.15 provide procedures effecting VHA Prosthetic and Sensory Aid Strategic Healthcare Group policy.

a. **VHA Handbook 1173.1, Eligibility.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for determination of eligibility of veteran beneficiaries for prosthetic services.

b. **VHA Handbook 1173.2, Furnishing Prosthetic Appliances and Services.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for furnishing prosthetic appliances to all eligible veteran beneficiaries based upon the medical recommendations of Prosthetic Clinic Teams, staff physicians, or authorized fee-basis physicians.

c. **VHA Handbook 1173.3, Amputee Clinic Teams and Artificial Limbs.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for conducting amputee clinics and providing artificial limbs to amputee veterans.

d. **VHA Handbook 1173.4, Automobile Adaptive Equipment Program.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures in providing the necessary equipment and training to enable a disabled veteran to operate a motor vehicle safely and/or permit access and egress to and from the vehicle.

e. **VHA Handbook 1173.5, Aids for the Blind.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for furnishing aids to veteran beneficiaries who are blind.

f. **VHA Handbook 1173.6, Wheelchairs and Special Mobility Aids.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for providing wheelchairs and special mobility devices to veteran beneficiaries.

- g. **VHA Handbook 1173.7, Audiology and Speech Devices.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for providing audiology and speech devices to veteran beneficiaries.
- h. **VHA Handbook 1173.8, Medical Equipment and Supplies.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for providing medical equipment and supplies to veterans.
- i. **VHA Handbook 1173.9, Footwear and Shoe Modifications.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures providing footwear and shoe modifications to veteran beneficiaries.
- j. **VHA Handbook 1173.10, Orthopedic Orthosis and Supports.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for providing orthopedic orthosis and supports to veteran beneficiaries.
- k. **VHA Handbook 1173.11, Ocular Prostheses and Facial Restorations.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for providing ocular prostheses and facial restorations to veteran beneficiaries.
- l. **VHA Handbook 1173.12, Prescription Optics and Low Vision Aids.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for providing optical and low vision aids to veteran beneficiaries.
- m. **VHA Handbook 1173.13, Home Respiratory Care Program.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for administering the Home Respiratory Care Program to veteran beneficiaries.
- n. **VHA Handbook 1173.14, Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for administering the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program for veteran beneficiaries.
- o. **VHA Handbook 1173.15, Clothing Allowance Benefit.** This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for administering the Clothing Allowance benefit for veteran beneficiaries.