This leaflet explains how the occupational therapists can assist you after your lower limb amputation. It also aims to answer some of your questions.

**What can you do to assist me?**
We will work with you to help you be as independent as possible in your usual daily activities. We will assess your present abilities and work with you to identify areas you wish to improve. Together, we will agree on the right treatment to address those areas.

**How quickly will I be seen by you?**
If possible we will have met you before your operation, otherwise we will introduce ourselves as soon as possible afterwards. We will ask questions about your life before coming to hospital to help us understand your home circumstances.

**How will I know what is the right treatment for me?**
It depends very much on the type of amputation and your own particular circumstances. We will discuss this with you at the appropriate time.

**What are the types of lower limb amputation?**
Lower limb (leg) amputations may be:-
- below knee
- above knee
- through knee
- Trans metatarsal (Toes)
- bilateral amputation (both limbs involved)

**How long does the treatment take?**
Again, it all depends on your individual needs and circumstances. To begin with, we will encourage you to look at and touch your stump to help reduce phantom pain.

**What is phantom pain?**
This is the pain felt by people in the place their limb used to be.
Will losing my legs affect my balance?
Yes, initially. It will take time to adjust, but together with the physiotherapists, we will help you to be able to achieve independent sitting balance.

What about every day activities?
We will discuss your everyday activities with you and we will base your treatment on your particular needs.

What else will you do for me?
We will work with you to practice transfers from:-
- bed – chair /
- wheelchair /
- commode /
- toilet.

Where will I get a wheelchair from?
We will measure and assess you during your stay in hospital and will order a suitable wheelchair for you from The Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre (A.L.A.C.) in Cardiff.

When will the wheelchair arrive?
It depends on the type/size of wheelchair required but generally it can take up to 28 days for a standard wheelchair to be delivered. If possible, we will provide you with a temporary wheelchair in the meantime.

I have never used a wheelchair before, will you show me how to use it?
Yes, we will discuss the workings of the wheelchair and will demonstrate it to you. You will have plenty of time to practice in the hospital.

I am hoping to have an artificial limb, will I still need a wheelchair?
Yes because you can use the wheelchair as back up when you cannot use an artificial limb (prosthesis).

Do all amputees automatically get prosthesis?
No, not all amputees will be suitable for prosthesis. We have to take into account the following:-
- type of amputation carried out
- general health/fitness
- condition of the remaining leg

If I am suitable for prosthesis, how soon will I get it?
This all depends on how quickly your stump heals and when you have an appointment at the Limb Fitting Centre at Rookwood Hospital. You may be discharged home after rehabilitation before your first fitting takes place.
I do not think my home is suitable for a wheelchair?
We will visit your home without you shortly after your operation to assess whether your home can be adapted, or aids provided to make it wheelchair accessible. We will ask your family/carers to be present.

Will I have to pay for any adaptations?
This depends on your own personal circumstances and the policy of your local social services. In some cases you might be financially assessed.

What happens if my home cannot be adapted to make it suitable?
In most cases adaptations/aids can be provided to make your home wheelchair accessible. However, if this is not possible, you may be offered the choice of re-housing.

How long would this take?
It all depends on your own personal circumstances and what is available in your area at the time. In most cases we would recommend you spend a period of rehabilitation first at a local hospital near to you.

Why is rehabilitation necessary?
Your treatment will continue when you go to rehabilitation. This will allow you time to practice your transfers, helping to make you more safe when you go home. It will also allow more time to carry out any adaptations to your home if needed. It will give us the opportunity to visit your home together.

What happens during a home visit?
When we go home on a visit together, we will take your wheelchair and find out how easy or difficult wheelchair access within your own home will actually be. This is the opportunity for a last check before we discharge you. Any changes that still need to be done can be discussed and planned.

Who will supply and fit any equipment I may need at home?
We will supply and fit most equipment such as a raised toilet seat or chair/bed raisers.

How long may I keep this equipment?
You may borrow it for as long as you need it. If the time comes when you no longer need the equipment, we will have it collected.

I am worried I will not be able to manage everything when I go home.
It is natural to feel apprehensive when you first go home. During your stay in hospital you will have an opportunity to discuss any/all concerns with us. Taking into consideration your particular needs, we will decide with you, what support, if any, you may need on discharge.