

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHILE

# SCREENING

### Importance of Screening

It is important to complete screenings each session as this allows the therapist time to evaluate if the plan of care needs adjusted. Screening can also reveal what is most important to work on for the session. Screenings should be done with each and every patient you work with.

### Room to Fail

This may sound counter intuitive but giving a safe place to fail can help a patient in the long run. A safe space to trial functional activities allows a patient to push themselves and, at times, fail. This also is an opportunity for the patient to explore problem solving on how to recover when a situation does not go to plan. This can give the patient more confidence in their ability to maneuver in any situation and can give family members more confidence in how to assist if needed.

(T. McCullough, personal communication, December 2023)

### What to Screen for

- Skincare checks
  - What does the residual limb look like at the start of each session?
  - Has the patient been keeping up with checks each day?
  - Does a plan need to be put in place to ensure this gets done routinely?
- Improved function
  - Always look for improved function or how it can be improved during the treatment session.
  - It can be helpful to discuss this with the patient or family to better understand what is working for them or the potential barriers they may face.
- Least restrictive device
  - Is the patient using the least restrictive device?
  - Be on the lookout to see if the patient is ready to progress to the next least restrictive assistive device (i.e., parallel bars, walker, cane, nothing).
  - Depending on your facility, this may be something you need to discuss with physical therapy.
- Outcome measures
  - Reassess outcome measures as needed.
  - This helps to see if treatment sessions are effective or if adjustments need to be made.
  - Be open to adding another outcome measure as conversations with the patient come up (ie. body dysmorphia, anxiety/depression, fine motor/dexterity, quality of life, function, and mobility).

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