Discover Orion³
Fully funded by NHS England
NHS Microprocessor Knee Funding

NHS England has approved the funding to prescribe microprocessor controlled prosthetic knees (MPKs) for people in England living with above knee, through-knee and hip disarticulation amputations. The policy provides eligible amputees with the opportunity to be fitted with a fully funded MPK, which will not only be hugely beneficial in improving the lives of many amputees but also helps promote long-term health.

How do I know if I am eligible for a MPK?

To be eligible for an MPK in England you must meet the criteria set by NHS England. This policy requires that you must have the potential to walk with a mechanical knee at different speeds, as well as over different and varied environments. You must also be capable of walking 50 yards on level ground. For further details on the full eligibility criteria, clinical indications and contra-indications please discuss MPK funding with your local NHS Rehabilitation Centre.
What Can a MPK Offer You?

The human leg performs an incredible number of complex functions that most people don’t even consider in their daily lives. Things like changing walking speed, standing still, avoiding a fall after tripping, walking down stairs, slopes and even switching surfaces. All of these movements rely on the knee’s ability to adjust its resistance to the weight of the body whilst remaining perfectly balanced.

An MPK uses inbuilt sensors to replicate these functions, enabling you to walk more naturally across varying terrain. It allows you to use both limbs more equally so you can help avoid overuse injuries and promote greater long term health and independence.
With the funding for MPKs now available there has never been a better time to find out what options may be accessible to you.

At Blatchford, we have over 128 years of innovation and expertise in lower limb prosthetic technology. We are committed to developing the very best prosthetic technology, increasing independence and promoting long-term health.

Orion3 is an MPK with intelligent speed control, which means the knee is calibrated according to the individual’s walking speed and gait cycle. Orion3 is suitable for those who would benefit from stability on different terrain, slopes, steps and for those wishing to walk naturally and efficiently at either single or varying speeds.

Orion3 is closer to replicating nature than ever before, with intelligent microprocessor control you can depend on, it helps to support a healthy future.

We offer a unique set of MPK packages, which combine a Blatchford hydraulic ankle with an Orion3 MPK. The technology works well together to provide a smooth, safe and natural walking experience that helps to preserve the body and prevent long-term health issues.
Dave’s Real Life Story

Dave has always strived for the best prosthetic technology and when he discovered Orion3 in early 2017, he was keen to try it. After successfully meeting the criteria set out by NHS England, Dave was fitted with an Orion3 MPK combined with Echelon, a Blatchford hydraulic ankle.

Being able to walk more naturally and look straight ahead rather than watching his every step has made a huge difference to Dave’s life, giving him the confidence to walk with less support from his wife, knowing he can rely on his Orion3. Dave said, “Orion3 has now given me the opportunity to move forward with my life and concentrate on the things that matter the most.”

Dave has always found it difficult to explain to someone who is not an amputee the difference that Orion3 has made. He describes that his previous leg always felt like an attachment but Orion3 feels as though it has become part of who he is. Dave commented, “It makes me feel as though I am a whole person again and I no longer look at myself as someone who has a leg missing.”

Orion3 and Echelon together have made such a difference to Dave’s life and his family think so too. His partner commented, “I can’t believe how much more confident Dave has been since using his new MPK. I am so pleased that he has had the opportunity to improve his mobility, it really has helped his quality of life.”

“It makes me feel as though I am a whole person again and I no longer look at myself as someone who has a leg missing.” — Dave
Intelligent Microprocessor Control
You Can Depend On

Natural Motion

Discover Orion3’s adaptive hydraulic resistance that works in real time, providing you with support when moving in any environment. From sitting down in a chair, walking over uneven ground or down a slope, in a crowd or quickly changing direction, Orion3 detects and adapts to suit your walking position, giving you more confidence and independence.

"Because Orion3 is so easy to use it doesn’t drain me of energy, leaving me with more energy to do other things!" - Chris
Putting Your Safety First

Enhanced Stability Performance (ESP) increases confidence and independence, reducing the risk of stumbles or falls and ensuring more balanced limb loading.

ESP adapts hydraulic resistance in real time, providing optimal stance support whether walking in a crowded environment, on uneven terrain, slopes, steps or when standing.

With situational awareness, Orion3 continuously monitors the user’s activity and responds accordingly for greater safety:

- Controlled Stance Support
- Standing Support
- Stumble Recovery
- Supported Sitting
- Dynamic Slope and Stair Descent

“I look at a terrain and I’m no longer worried, on Orion3 I just walk! I have total confidence in the knee.” — Denise

Chris and Denise’s driveway has a gravel surface and gentle slope, previously they had to be very careful when walking on it in case their legs locked up or they faltered. Now, thanks to the capabilities of Orion3, they can tackle the surface without any hesitation, as the knee will always adapt to the terrain and ensure they are able to walk seamlessly.
Be in Control

Orion3 is an intelligent microprocessor knee with Smart Programming calibrated to each individual based on his or her walking speed and gait cycle. Orion3 offers a natural and efficient walking experience.

With advanced hydraulic technology, Orion3 provides you with greater support and control when sitting. Its progressive hydraulic resistance allows you to sit down with an evenly balanced weight distribution making your movement secure and safe, leaving you in control.

We recognise that being able to stand still comfortably is essential whether you are talking to a friend, holding your child or waiting in a queue. Orion3 provides excellent standing support, both on flat and sloping surfaces with resistance that works in real time to stabilise the knee, helping you to remain balanced and encourages good posture.

At the touch of a button, you are able to activate a flexion lock for comfort when standing for long periods, or switch to a free-knee flexion cycle mode. Orion3 also boasts three days battery life, giving you the confidence to do more.

Supported Long-Term Health

Orion3 works to provide a smooth, safe and natural walking experience. Enhancing your stability on different terrains, slopes and steps, Orion3 encourages even weight distribution, offloading your sound side and lower back to help reduce aches and pains such as back pain and arthritis which are commonly reported by amputees.
“It’s about not having to think about being an amputee and to just go out and do what everyone else does.”

Becky
Pairing your MPK with a Hydraulic Ankle

It is important to consider both the MPK and ankle-foot technology available to you.

We believe long-term musculoskeletal health depends on the replication of the dynamic and adaptive qualities of natural limb movement.

Our hydraulic ankles mimic natural movement, fine-tuning joint position to align the body for optimum posture and comfort. The ankle’s alignment continually adjusts to absorb energy, allowing for an efficient roll-over. With each step, the natural ankle motion conforms the foot effectively to the ground, increasing comfort, optimising posture and reducing the risk of falls.

Hydraulic ankle technology has been proven to work in partnership with MPKs. Both Orion3 with its standing support mode and the self-alignment of a Blatchford hydraulic ankle have been shown to contribute to equal weight bearing and improved balance, helping to promote to greater long term health.¹

Pairing Blatchford hydraulic ankle technology with the features and benefits of Orion3 creates a smooth, safe and natural walking experience. Both the knee and the ankle work together, increasing safety, confidence and independence.

What can Blatchford hydraulic ankles offer me?

- Equal weight bearing restores inter limb loading symmetry²
- Reduced pain and discomfort³
- Reduced physical and cognitive demand⁴
- Reduced chance of trips and falls⁵
- Greater long term health, wellbeing and independence⁶
Orion3 in combination with Blatchford’s EchelonVT hydraulic ankle, has given us our lives back and allows us to do the activities we love. We couldn’t recommend it highly enough to above knee amputees keen to stay active.

Chris & Denise

If you have any questions regarding the NHS funded MPK policy or would like further information on Blatchford products please do not hesitate to get in touch with your local NHS rehabilitation Centre.
References