

A Case from the *Washington Post* and Corresponding ICF Codes

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HMO Balks, Then Approves Prosthesis

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When diabetes ravaged Gregory Curry's right leg in June and doctors had to **amputate it below the knee**, his health plan paid for the surgery. No problem.

But in August when Curry asked to be fitted with an artificial leg so he could continue physical therapy and resume his 12-year career as a D.C. government employee, he suddenly had a huge problem.

Curry's **health maintenance organization**, NYLCare, **rejected his request for a prosthetic leg**. The District's NYLCare contract doesn't cover artificial limbs. You're on your own the HMO told Curry.

The decision **consigned** Curry, 43, **to crutches** until he could raise enough for a \$5,200 prosthetic leg. He...said he has no savings and couldn't come up with a \$2,600 down payment needed to begin paying for the leg in installments.

For six months Curry has stayed at home in Southeast Washington, infuriated and discouraged that he **can't be on the job** fixing boilers and keeping tenants in city public housing warm in summer and cool in summer.

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BODY STRUCTURE

"Amputate ... below the knee": s7501.4

- s = body structure
- 7 = related to movement
- 5 = lower extremity
- 01 = lower leg
- .4 = COMPLETE impairment

ENVIRONMENT

"Health maintenance organization rejected his request for a prosthetic leg": e5801.3

- e = environment
- 5 = services, systems, and policies
- 8 = health services, systems, and policies
- 01 = health systems, "...such as systems for implementing regulations and standards that determine eligibility for ... assistive technology or other adaptive equipment..."
- .3 = SEVERE barrier

ACTIVITY

"Consigned to crutches": a465.3

- a = activity
- 4 = mobility
- 65 = walking and moving around
- .3 = SEVERE limitation

PARTICIPATION

"Can't be on the job": p8502.4

- p = participation
- 8 = major life areas
- 50 = remunerative employment
- 2 = full time employment "engaging in all aspects of work for payment on a full-time basis, as an employee"
- .4 = COMPLETE difficulty