

In the physical therapy department, skilled and highly trained therapists work with individuals following limb amputation. They provide outpatient care to increase an individual's strength, flexibility, coordination, and endurance, and to decrease pain. Other functional treatment may include proper positioning and prevention of contractures and learning the skills necessary to achieve maximum independence with and without a prosthesis.

The physical therapists work closely with an independent, local prosthetics and orthotics company and Christi Clinic's Vein and Vascular department to provide comprehensive, well transitioned care. A pre-prosthetic functional measure is performed by the physical therapist following surgery to best predict the patient's functional outcome potential. This is followed by placement of an appropriate limb by the prosthetics company and then the patient returns to physical therapy for prosthetic training and continued treatment. The goals of physical therapy are to build the patient's strength, skills, and confidence and to return them to the highest level of physical functional ability.