

Breaking down Transportation Barriers in Healthcare Across the Miami Valley with Prosthetic Home Care

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Dayton Artificial Limb in Englewood, Ohio is working to extend the reach of prosthetic care across the Miami Valley and have been for years. First established in 1996, Dayton Artificial Limb has strived to provide the best care for their patients through innovative technology and techniques. Since 2003, DALC's Mobile Unit has been treating patients at their homes in the Dayton area, which is monumental for the amputee community.

Certified Prosthetist at DALC, Brad Poziembo states, "It is very difficult for many amputees to get the care they need and deserve especially post-amputation. There can be a period where the patient is bound to a wheelchair and transportation can be tough getting to and from appointments. This is just one more thing we can take off their hands."

[Transportation issues](#) shouldn't prevent anyone from receiving medical attention and missing an appointment. Sadly, this is the reality for an estimated 3.6 million Americans whose medical care has been delayed due to common transportation issues. Missed appointments and delays in care cost our health system an extra [\\$150 billion each year](#). (STAT, 2016) Delayed care also results in disuse of the muscles leading to atrophy and a loss of muscle strength at a rate of around 12% a week, decreasing the well-being of the patient and delaying rehabilitation. (Nursing Times, 2009)

Dayton Artificial Limb has seen a remarkable impact by using their Mobile Unit and expect that impact to grow, especially with the recent extension of the Veterans' Choice Program, President Trump signed in April. The bill allows veterans to pursue private care outside the VA in response to delayed care within the system in some parts of the U.S.

On May 5, 2017, *Washington Free Beacon* reported:

More than 100 veterans died while waiting for care at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Los Angeles, Calif., over a nine-month span ending in August 2015, according to a new government report.

The VA Office of Inspector General found in a recent healthcare inspection that 225 veterans at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System facility died with open or pending consults between Oct. 1, 2015 and Aug. 9, 2015. Nearly half—117—of those patients died while experiencing delays in receiving care.

The inspector general reported that 43 percent of the 371 consults scheduled for patients who ended up dying were not timely because of a failure by VA employees to follow proper procedure. The report was unable to substantiate claims that patients died as a result of the delayed consults. (Washington Free Beacon, 2017)

“We at Dayton Artificial Limb see this bill being very beneficial to veteran patients in the U.S. who need and deserve expedited care. Specific to amputees, everyday a patient remains immobile their muscle mass and overall health can diminish by the day. That’s the idea behind our method of care: efficient, accurate, and quick. Our Mobile Unit helps us deliver these qualities to our patients.”

DALC’s Mobile Lab is equipped with a full prosthetic workshop. A rolling tool chest complete with tool sets, grinders, generator, air compressor, and a full parts and components inventory. The Mobile Lab allows DALC to make deliveries and perform fittings and adjustments at patients' homes or other external locations.

For questions on Dayton Artificial Limb's Mobile Unit or to schedule an at-home consultation, contact:

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Sources

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