

# Peer Support for Amputees in the Hospital and in the Community



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There is no conflict of interest on my part  
that requires disclosure.



The loss of a limb is a traumatic experience. It is a great challenge for both patients and relatives.

Physicians,  
psychotherapists,  
nursing staff,  
physiotherapists,  
orthopaedic  
technicians and  
rehabilitation  
managers accomplish  
their best to help the  
patient.





But they cannot answer all questions according the new situation in life. The patient needs somebody who knows his troubles and his hardships because he experienced them firsthand. A peer!

# UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Article 24 3. (a):

“... States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including ... facilitating peer support and mentoring;”



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# The pillars of Peer Support

1. Peer counseling in the hospital
2. Peer support groups
3. Youth camps



Peer Counseling  
means  
„Counselling by  
people who in their  
life experience  
similar problems  
or experienced  
them in the past.“

Talks with the peer visitor are meant to embolden the patient and support him to go about his new situation in life.

The talks with the peer are no substitution for the services of medical or orthopaedic professionals or of rehabilitation managers.

Peer counselling is the beginning of the rehabilitation process and therefore has to start as early as in hospital.

Peers have to team up closely with the hospital.

Physicians, psychotherapists, nursing staff, physiotherapists and orthopaedic technicians must know all about the services provided by the peers.

Peers have to be trained well and they need supervision by professionals.

2014 Founding of the cooperation „PiK - Peers im Krankenhaus“ (Peers in Hospital)

Partners of the cooperation are BMAB, Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin and 2 Social Insurance Companies



The cooperation offers peer training once a year in Berlin at the Unfallkrankenhaus.



## Training content:

- Organisation of self support
- Topics and aspects of peer counselling in the hospital
- Psychological basics and conversation techniques
- Medical basics and prosthetic provisioning
- Legal basics and data protection



# Status and relevance of peer support from BMAB's point of view

## Conclusion:

1. Every amputee needs peer support
2. Every amputee has a right to get peer support
3. Peer counselling has to start as early as in acute care hospital
4. Peers and hospitals have to interoperate closely
5. Peers have to be trained well and have to have the opportunity of professional supervision

