

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2007

CONTACTS:

Meg Derrer, Marketing Director, (616) 242-0474, meg.derrer@maryfreebed.com

Stephanie Millis, Mary Free Bed Orthotics and Prosthetics, (616) 242-0305, stephanie.millis@maryfreebed.com

BREAKTHROUGH PROSTHETICS
NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH MARY FREE BED

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Two types of advanced prosthetic technologies used to benefit injured military personnel are now available to amputee patients in West Michigan through the orthotics and prosthetics department of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.

Both the Proprio Foot™ and the C-Leg® anticipate and adapt to a person's movement, taking prosthetic and orthotics technologies a giant step closer to replicating the natural functioning of lost limbs.

“We're privileged to be among the first in Michigan to obtain the training and certification needed to fit patients with these prosthetics,” says Patrick Nimphie, certified prosthetist of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. “Both technologies vastly improve the mobility and quality of life for amputee patients.”

Proprio Foot

Developed by Ossur, a global orthopedics company based in Iceland, the Proprio Foot is named for its ability to detect where the foot is in relation to its surroundings and then adapt accordingly – a concept called proprioception. For example, when users climb or descend stairs, the Proprio Foot automatically adjusts its ankle position after each step to enable the next one.

In addition, the ankle motion of the Proprio Foot allows users to sit or rise from chairs more easily, while it's anatomically correct response creates a balanced, more natural, gait.

C-Leg

Developed by Otto Bock Healthcare in Minneapolis, the computer-controlled C-Leg represents a dramatic improvement over other lower-limb prosthetics.

Using built-in sensors and microprocessors, the C-Leg adjusts 50 times per second to changes in walking speed and direction, providing knee stability the moment it's needed. Consequently, users can walk down stairs and negotiate rough terrain without fear of falling.

One user even credits the C-Leg with saving his life – his computer-controlled limb enabled him to hurry down 70 flights of stairs before the World Trade Center towers collapsed on 9-11. Another has made history as the first above-knee amputee to fly for the U.S. Air Force.

Mary Free Bed is currently fitting patients with the C-Leg prosthetic and the Proprio Foot orthotic.

For more information, please visit Mary Free Bed Orthotics and Prosthetics at www.maryfreebedoandp.com, Ossur at www.ossur.com/bionics, or Otto Bock Healthcare at www.ottobockus.com.

###

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is an 80-bed, not-for-profit, acute rehabilitation center. Its mission is to restore independence, hope, and freedom through rehabilitation to people with disabilities. Programs include brain injury; spinal cord injury; stroke and orthopedic; pediatric/adolescent; amputee; lymphedema; vestibular; motion analysis center; rehab technology center; orthotics and prosthetics services; and driver rehab.