

Why We Turn Orange in April

Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month (LLLDAM) is observed every April to raise awareness about the 5.6 million Americans living with limb loss or limb difference. The campaign focuses on education, advocacy, and support, with orange as the official awareness color representing the energy and strength of the community.

If you walk into an Ottobock Care clinic this month, you might notice a little extra brightness. Maybe it's an orange ribbon pinned to a lab coat, a local community flyer on the front desk, or just a buzzing energy in the air.

That's because April is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month (LLLDAM).



What is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month?

LLLDAM is an annual campaign held every April, created by the Amputee Coalition to empower those affected by limb loss and limb difference to achieve their full potential. The movement centers on three primary goals:

- Education: Informing the public about the causes of limb loss—including vascular disease, trauma, and cancer—as well as congenital limb difference.
- Advocacy: Pushing for legislation that ensures fair insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices, so everyone can access the technology they need.
- Support: Reducing isolation by connecting individuals with peer support networks and community resources.

The official color of the limb loss and limb difference community is orange, chosen to represent the energy, vibrance, and strength of those affected.

Throughout April, you'll see supporters wearing orange ribbons and clothing as a visible sign of solidarity.

At Ottobock Care, our mission has always been about helping people maintain and regain their freedom of movement. While we live and breathe this mission 365 days a year, April serves as a powerful megaphone for the community we are so honored to serve. It is a time for the public to listen, for stories to be shared, and for us to celebrate the resilience and diversity of those living with limb loss and limb difference.





Understanding the Scope: Fast Facts About Limb Loss in the U.S.

To understand why LLLDAM matters, it helps to know the scale of the community:

- More than 5.6 million Americans live with limb loss or limb difference, including approximately 2.3 million living with limb loss and 3.4 million with congenital limb differences.
- 300 to 500 amputations are performed every day in the United States.
- Vascular disease (including diabetes and peripheral arterial disease) accounts for 54% of all amputations, making it the leading cause.
- Due to rising rates of diabetes and vascular disease, the number of Americans living with limb loss is projected to double by 2050.

These numbers represent real people—each with their own story, goals, and dreams. That's why awareness and advocacy are so critical.

Key Terms: Understanding the Difference

One of LLLDAM's primary goals is to foster a better-informed public. Understanding key terms is the first step toward meaningful advocacy:

What is 'Limb Loss'?

Limb Loss refers to the loss of all or part of an extremity due to a surgical procedure (amputation) or traumatic event.

What is 'Limb Difference'?

Limb Difference refers to a congenital condition where a person is born with a limb that is anatomically different in shape, size, or structure.

How Ottobock Care Supports the LLLDAM Mission

We are proud to join this movement again this year. Our clinics serve as a bridge between awareness and tangible, life-changing care. We support LLLDAM through three core pillars:

1. **Clinical Advocacy and Legislation.** Awareness is only effective if it leads to action. Access to quality prosthetic devices shouldn't depend on where you live or what insurance plan you have. We believe everyone deserves the technology that can help them live their fullest life, and we're committed to making that a reality.
2. **Holistic Mobility Solutions.** Limb loss care extends far beyond the device itself. Our clinics provide a multidisciplinary approach that includes:

Custom Prosthetic Fitting: Using state-of-the-art technology like microprocessor knees and bionic hands, we work with each patient to find the best solution for their unique needs and lifestyle.

Reimbursement Support: Our teams help patients navigate the complex insurance landscape to ensure they get the technology they deserve, removing financial barriers wherever possible.

Peer Mentorship: We aim to connect new patients with experienced individuals who understand what they're going through, fostering emotional resilience and a sense of community from day one.

Frequently Asked Questions**Why is orange the official color for LLLDAM?**

Orange was chosen to represent the energy, vibrance, and strength of the limb loss and limb difference community. It's a color that commands attention and signifies a call to action—perfect for a movement focused on awareness and advocacy.

How can I find a local support group?

The [Amputee Coalition](#) maintains a national database of Certified Peer Visitors. You can also visit any Ottobock Care clinic to be connected with local resources and community events. We're here to help you find the support you need.

Can limb loss be prevented?

In many cases, yes. Because vascular disease is the leading cause of limb loss, early management of diabetes, smoking cessation, and proper wound care are critical preventative measures. Regular check-ups and proactive health management can make a significant difference.



How to Support LLLDAM and Get Involved

April is a reminder that behind every statistic is a person—a parent, a friend, an athlete, an artist—living a full, vibrant life. While awareness campaigns like LLLDAM shine a spotlight on the community this month, the need for education, advocacy, and support continues year-round.

Whether you're a patient, a caregiver, a clinician, or simply someone who wants to support this community, there are many ways to get involved. Wear orange. Share stories. Advocate for better access to care. And above all, approach conversations about limb loss and limb difference with curiosity, compassion, and respect.

At Ottobock Care, we're honored to walk this journey alongside the limb loss and limb difference community—not just in April, but every single day. If you'd like to learn more about support resources, community events, or care options, we invite you to visit your nearest clinic or reach out to connect.

Sources & Further Reading

- *Amputee Coalition: [Limb Loss Statistics](#)*
- *Avalere Health: [Prevalence of Limb Loss and Limb Difference in the United States \(2024 White Paper\)](#)*
- *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: [Projections for 2050](#)*