

## MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR

### *Table of Contents*

<b>1. CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 PREFABRICATED MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR .....	2
1.2 CUSTOMISED MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR.....	2
1.3 CUSTOM MADE MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR.....	2
1.4 MODIFICATIONS AND COMPONENTS FOR MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR .....	2
<b>2. FUNDING.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 SUBSIDY FOR MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR .....	3
2.2 REAPPLICATION FOR ADULTS .....	3
2.3 REAPPLICATION FOR CHILDREN .....	3
2.4 CO-PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS .....	3
2.5 APPLICANT OWNERSHIP.....	3
2.6 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE .....	3
<b>3. MASS DESIGNATED PRESCRIBERS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. PRESCRIBER ROLE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 PRESCRIBER RESPONSIBILITY .....	4
4.2 POST DELIVERY FOLLOW-UP REVIEW.....	4
<b>5. CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6. MASS LIST OF MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR SUPPLIERS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR NOT SUBSIDISED BY MASS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR - DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1 – FLOW CHART: PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR SUBSIDY FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2 – APPROVED CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR (MGF) AND DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART .....</b>	<b>10</b>

This section must be read in conjunction with the General Information Section

## 1. CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR

Approved categories of medical grade footwear are:

- Prefabricated
- Customised
- Custom made

Approved modifications and components may also be subsidised for medical grade footwear when part of the prescription.

### 1.1 Prefabricated Medical Grade Footwear

This “off the shelf” footwear must meet the minimum Australian Podiatric Medical Grade Footwear Association (APMGFA) specifications for medical grade footwear. It may be imported or manufactured in Australia and may be purchased from medical grade footwear retailers or from some medical grade footwear practitioners. Features may include fractional fittings, extra depth, added width or insoles.

### 1.2 Customised Medical Grade Footwear

Prefabricated medical grade footwear may be adapted to individual applicant requirements, i.e. “customised”. For example, when *prescribed* in-shoe orthotic devices or build-ups require personalised measurements, fitting and manufacture.

Customised medical grade footwear may also be manufactured by a medical grade footwear supplier using *standard* lasts and patterns.

Customised medical grade footwear is prescribed and supplied after a clinical assessment indicates that the applicant requires medical grade footwear but the level of disability *does not* require an *individual* mould and manufacture as required for custom made medical grade footwear.

### 1.3 Custom Made Medical Grade Footwear

Custom made medical grade footwear has medical grade specifications, is designed and manufactured for a specific applicant and requires an individual mould and a distinct set of specifications, patterns and lasts to be established for each foot.

### 1.4 Modifications and Components for Medical Grade Footwear

The following modifications and components may be prescribed for medical grade footwear subsidised by MASS only when part of the current prescription for medical grade footwear:

- arch supports
- toe fillers
- internal wedges
- build-ups (internal or external)
- T straps
- heel ferrules
- in-shoe orthoses (insoles – valgus, premetatarsal, other)
- rocker soles
- velcro closure system

The prescription must be completed and signed by an approved MASS prescriber and include clinical and functional justification for the type of footwear and modifications prescribed.

MASS will *not* subsidy fund modifications and components to an applicant's existing footwear.

## **2. FUNDING**

Refer to *MASS Statewide Prescriber Procedures Manual, General Information Section, Sub Section 'Subsidy Funding'* for generic subsidy funding and co-payment information which must be read in conjunction with this section.

MASS will provide written authorisation to the supplier when funds are available to progress with the order for approved medical grade footwear for the applicant.

MASS will not retrospectively subsidise medical grade footwear and/or associated modifications and components.

### **2.1 Subsidy for Medical Grade Footwear**

The maximum subsidy levels for medical grade footwear, which include approved modifications and components, are:

- Prefabricated medical grade footwear: \$225
- Customised medical grade footwear: \$280
- Custom made medical grade footwear: \$620

### **2.2 Reapplication for Adults**

For eligible adult applicants (16 years and older), the minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy funding is eighteen months from the date of the applicant's previous MASS approval letter for medical grade footwear. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.

### **2.3 Reapplication for Children**

For eligible child applicants (under 16 years), the minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy funding is twelve months from the date of the applicant's previous MASS approval letter for medical grade footwear. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.

### **2.4 Co-payment Arrangements**

Refer to *MASS Statewide Prescriber Procedures Manual, General Information Section, Sub Section 'Co-payment'* which must be read in conjunction with this section.

The balance of the cost of medical grade footwear above the MASS subsidy will be the responsibility of the applicant/carer and must be paid directly to the supplier.

### **2.5 Applicant Ownership**

The applicant/carer will own any medical grade footwear subsidised by MASS.

### **2.6 Repairs and Maintenance**

The applicant/carer will be responsible for the cost of ongoing repairs and maintenance and any future modifications or components (e.g. build-ups and in-shoe orthotics) to medical grade footwear subsidised by MASS.

### 3. MASS DESIGNATED PRESCRIBERS

Refer to *Sub Section 'Medical Grade Footwear – Designated Prescriber Chart'* at the end of this document for a list of approved specialty groups authorised to prescribe medical grade footwear.

Prescribers of medical grade footwear through MASS must be either Medical specialists seeing the applicants in a *private* capacity,

or

Public sector podiatrists. A trial is being conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until further advised, whereby public sector podiatrists are approved as prescribers for medical grade footwear to MASS eligible clients. (The continuation of this trial is subject to monitoring and review).

MASS approved prescribers cannot also be suppliers of medical grade footwear. Any conflict of interest, personal or financial such as a vested interest in the provision of prescribed medical grade footwear, must be declared to MASS.

Medical specialists with experience prescribing medical grade footwear who are not covered in *Sub Section 'Medical Grade Footwear – Designated Prescriber Chart'* may apply in writing to MASS for consideration of inclusion as a designated medical prescriber.

### 4. PRESCRIBER ROLE

Refer to *MASS Statewide Prescriber Procedures Manual, General Information Section, Sub Section 'Prescriber Role'* for generic prescriber responsibilities, which must be read in conjunction with this section.

#### 4.1 Prescriber Responsibility

It is the prescriber's responsibility to:

- conduct a functional assessment of the applicant's needs
- provide a full description of the medical grade footwear prescribed on the application form (MASS 60)
- advise the applicant/carer that he/she will be responsible for any cost above the approved MASS subsidy for medical grade footwear
- involve a medical grade footwear practitioner in the prescription process for custom made footwear, if possible, to ensure that the most appropriate materials and components available are used
- advise the applicant/carer that MASS will not fund the aid/s retrospectively, including temporary arrangements made by the applicant/carer, prescriber or other agency for supply of the aid/s
- accept responsibility for the post delivery follow-up review of the completed medical grade footwear (or delegate responsibility to the applicant's treating allied health professional in rural and remote areas)
- advise the applicant/carer of the requirement for a MASS post delivery follow-up review.

#### 4.2 Post Delivery Follow-up Review

On receipt of invoice, MASS will contact each client to confirm satisfaction of the footwear prior to MASS subsidy payment.

MASS requires that if the MGF received does not meet the clients need the client should advise MASS and return with the MGF to the supplier for approved modifications.

If the supplier is unable to resolve the issue MASS should be advised and arrangements then made for the client to be reviewed by the prescriber with the supplied MGF.

If, at the time of the follow-up review, the medical grade footwear is found either not to conform with the prescription or to be clinically/functionally unsatisfactory, the prescriber should consult the supplier in the first instance. If the problem cannot be resolved, then the MASS Clinical Advisor should be contacted to discuss the matter and determine a suitable course of action in order to remedy the situation and provide the best possible outcome for the client.

## **5. CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR**

MASS subsidy funding provides assistance towards the cost of a range of medical grade footwear to enhance mobility and to assist people with permanent and stabilised conditions or disabilities within the home. MASS does not subsidise medical grade footwear, modifications or components for medical grade footwear if the primary function is outside the scope of the Scheme such as short term post acute treatment, community access or employment support.

Clinical criteria for medical grade footwear may be based on deformity, severe pain, impaired peripheral circulation, impaired sensation, ulceration, amputation and/or functional impairment.

Recommendations for modifications to medical grade footwear should include details of required functional outcome. Preferred materials should be indicated.

## **6. MASS LIST OF MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR SUPPLIERS**

To assist prescribers and applicants, MASS maintains a list of medical grade footwear suppliers which includes Retailers, Custom Makers and Certified Pedorthists. MASS will only accept quotations from footwear suppliers who are currently on this list or have attained Certification in Pedorthics (C.Retped.Au, C.Ped.Au, C.Ped.Cm.Au) and listed on the Medical Grade Footwear Register *and* who can demonstrate membership of the Australian Pedorthic Medical Grade Footwear Association (APMGFA).

This list is not definitive and does not preclude other footwear suppliers who have attained Certification in Pedorthics (C.Retped.Au, C.Ped.Au, C.Ped.Cm.Au) and listed on the Medical Grade Footwear Register *and* who can demonstrate membership to the Australian Pedorthic Medical Grade Footwear Association (APMGFA).

MASS will provide a copy of the current list of footwear suppliers to prescribers and applicants on request or it may be obtained via the MASS website on [www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/guidelines.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/guidelines.asp)

## **7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The following steps should be taken in order to apply to MASS for subsidised assistance for medical grade footwear:

1. Applicant/carer obtains a referral from a general practitioner to make an appointment with a prescriber from one of the MASS designated speciality groups. Refer to *Sub Section 'Medical Grade Footwear – Designated Prescriber Chart'* at the end of this document for a list of approved speciality groups authorised to prescribe medical grade footwear. In respect of the trial of public sector

podiatrists as prescribers for MASS, referral to a specialist or from a GP is not required.

2. Prescriber undertakes a clinical assessment of the applicant and completes the clinical prescription in Part C of the MASS 60 application form. For custom made footwear, the clinical assessment should also involve a medical grade footwear practitioner, if possible, to ensure that the most appropriate materials and components available are used.
3. Applicant/carer then completes Part B and Part D of the MASS 60 application form and makes an appointment with a supplier of his/her choice from the MASS list of approved medical grade footwear suppliers (available by contacting MASS).
4. The supplier must see the applicant and the prescription from the prescriber (Part C of MASS 60) in order to provide a quotation for the item prescribed.
5. Applicant/carer retains Part A of the MASS 60 application form and forwards the completed Part B, Part C and Part D to MASS together with the supplier's quotation and a copy of both sides of his/her current eligibility card/form.
6. MASS advises the applicant/carer in writing of the outcome of the application which may include:
  - level of subsidy funding approved by MASS;
  - applicant/carer responsibilities; and
  - other relevant details.
7. If approved, MASS will advise client/carer and prescriber of the order confirmation and supplier details.
8. On completion of the medical grade footwear, the supplier will deliver the aid/s to the client and initiate the tax invoice (stating the delivery date of the completed aid/s).
9. If the medical grade footwear is not functionally appropriate, the client should contact the supplier in the first instance within 3 weeks of delivery to arrange resolution.
10. If the matter still cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the client/carer MASS must be contacted so that reasonable measures can be taken to remedy the situation and provide the best possible outcome for all parties.

To assist applicants and prescribers, a flow chart summarising the application process is at Appendix 1 of this document.

## **8. MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR NOT SUBSIDISED BY MASS**

The following items are **not** subsidised by MASS:

- Prefabricated accommodative/comfort footwear – footwear which has some design features such as added depth to enhance comfort or which provides support greater than the average shoe. This grade of footwear does not adhere to the minimum Australian Podiatric and Medical Grade Footwear Association (APMGFA) specifications for medical grade footwear.
- Any modifications or components including build-ups and in-shoe orthotics prescribed for the applicant's own shoes (i.e. not part of the current medical grade footwear prescription/application).

### MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR - DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART

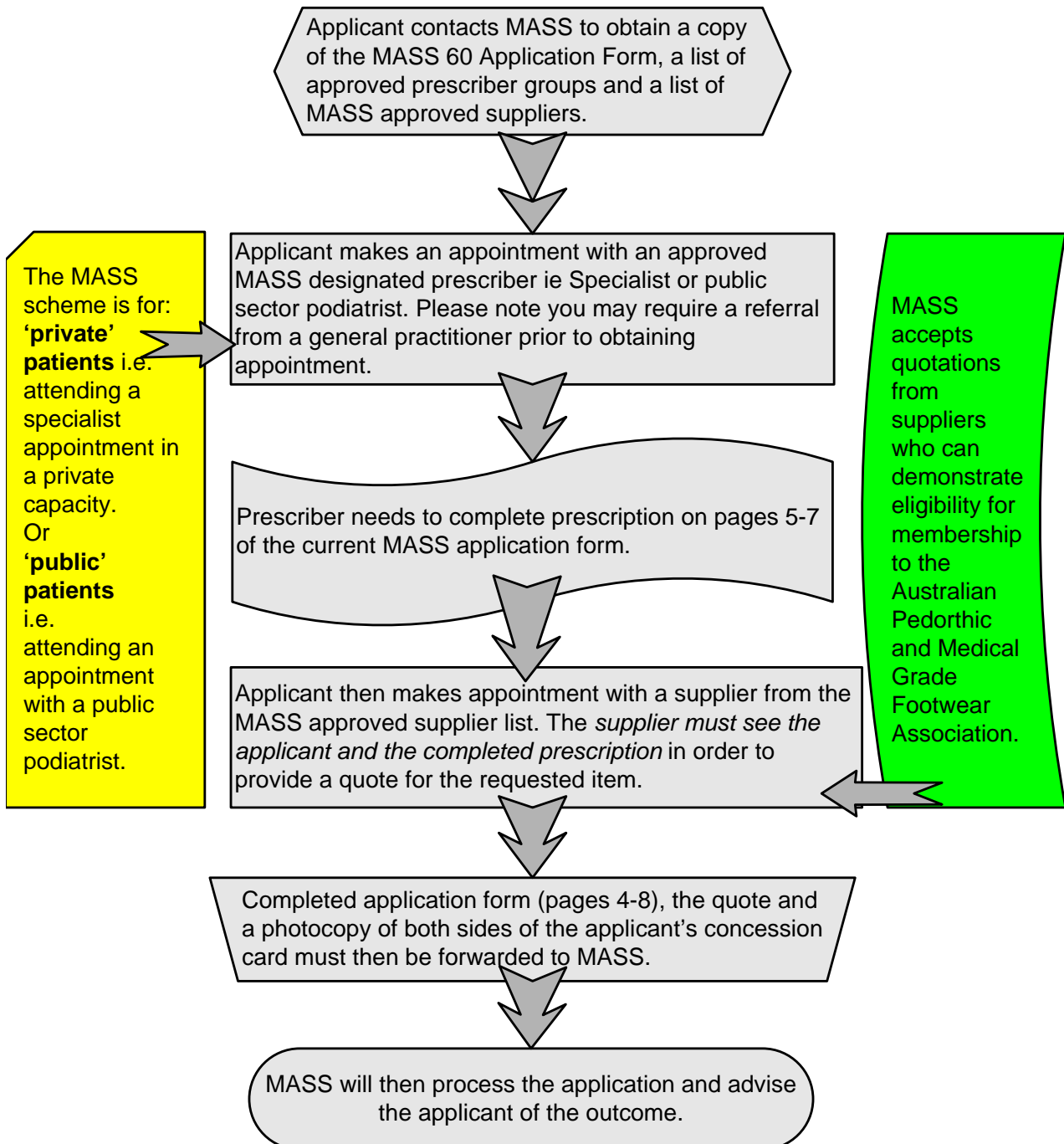
Medical Grade Footwear Category	Designated Medical Prescribers	Designated Medical Prescribers Rural and Remote	Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA)	Forms Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefabricated Medical Grade Footwear</li> <li>• Customised Medical Grade Footwear</li> <li>• Custom Made Medical Grade Footwear</li> </ul>	<p><b>Private:</b> Orthopaedic Surgeons Vascular Surgeons and Medical Specialists in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rheumatology</li> <li>• Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Geriatrics</li> <li>• Endocrinology</li> </ul> <p><b>Public:</b> Public Sector Podiatrists A trial is being conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until further advised, whereby public sector podiatrists are approved as prescribers for medical grade footwear to MASS.</p>	<p><b>Private:</b> Orthopaedic Surgeons Vascular Surgeons and Medical Specialists in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rheumatology</li> <li>• Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Geriatrics</li> <li>• Endocrinology</li> </ul> <p><b>Public:</b> Public Sector Podiatrists A trial is being conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until further advised, whereby public sector podiatrists are approved as prescribers for medical grade footwear to MASS.</p>	<p>No SOA</p>	<p>Application Form MASS 60</p> <p>Supplier Quotation</p>

**MEDICAL AIDS SUBSIDY SCHEME (MASS)  
STATEWIDE PRESCRIBER PROCEDURES MANUAL**

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- Prescribers of medical grade footwear through MASS must be medical specialists treating applicants in private practice, or public sector podiatrists through Queensland Health. A trial is being conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until further advised, whereby public sector podiatrists are approved as prescribers for medical grade footwear to MASS. (The continuation of this trial is subject to monitoring and review).
- Prescribers cannot also be suppliers of medical grade footwear. Any conflict of interest, personal or financial such as a vested interest in the provision of prescribed medical grade footwear must be declared to MASS. Where MASS deems it appropriate an alternative source of supply shall be identified.
- Medical specialists with experience prescribing medical grade footwear who are not covered by the above list of speciality groups may apply in writing to MASS for consideration of inclusion as a MASS designated medical prescriber.

## APPENDIX 1 – Flow Chart: Procedure for Applying for Subsidy Funding Assistance for Medical Grade Footwear



## APPENDIX 2 – Approved Categories of Medical Grade Footwear (MGF) and Designated Prescriber Chart

### MEDICAL AIDS SUBSIDY SCHEME (MASS)

### MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR - APPROVED CATEGORIES

Approved categories of medical grade footwear (MGF)	MASS Subsidy
<b>Prefabricated MGF:</b> “Off the shelf” footwear which meets Australian Podiatric and Medical Grade Footwear Association specifications with features such as fractional fittings, extra depth, added width or insoles.	\$225
<p><b>Customised MGF:</b> Pre-fabricated MGF may be adapted to individual applicant requirements i.e. “customised”. For example, when <i>prescribed</i> in-shoe orthotic devices or build-ups require personalised measurements, fitting and manufacture. Customised MGF may also be manufactured by a MGF supplier using <i>standard</i> lasts and patterns. Customised MGF is prescribed and supplied after a clinical assessment indicates that the applicant requires MGF but the level of disability <i>does not</i> require an <i>individual mould</i> and manufacture as required for custom made MGF.</p>	\$280
<b>Custom Made MGF:</b> Designed and manufactured for a specific applicant and requires an individual mould and a distinct set of specifications, patterns and lasts to be established for each foot.	\$620

### MEDICAL GRADE FOOTWEAR - DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART

Medical Grade Footwear Category	Designated Medical Prescribers	Designated Medical Prescribers Rural and Remote	Forms Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefabricated Medical Grade Footwear</li> <li>• Customised Medical Grade Footwear</li> <li>• Custom Made Medical Grade Footwear</li> </ul>	<p><b>Private:</b> Orthopaedic Surgeons Vascular Surgeons and Medical Specialists in Rheumatology, Rehabilitation, Geriatrics and Endocrinology <b>Public:</b> Public Sector Podiatrists Trial from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until further advised, whereby public sector podiatrists are approved as prescribers for medical grade footwear to MASS, subject to monitoring and review.</p>	<p><b>Private:</b> Orthopaedic Surgeons Vascular Surgeons and Medical Specialists in Rheumatology, Rehabilitation, Geriatrics and Endocrinology <b>Public:</b> Public Sector Podiatrists Trial from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 until further advised, whereby public sector podiatrists are approved as prescribers for medical grade footwear to MASS, subject to monitoring and review.</p>	<p>MASS 60  Quotation  Acquittal Form MASS 70 (if requested by MASS)</p>

**MEDICAL AIDS SUBSIDY SCHEME (MASS)**  
**STATEWIDE PRESCRIBER PROCEDURES MANUAL**

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- Prescribers of medical grade footwear through MASS must be medical specialists treating applicants in private practice or public sector podiatrists (on a trial basis subject to monitoring and review).
- Prescribers cannot also be suppliers of medical grade footwear. Any conflict of interest, personal or financial such as a vested interest in the provision of prescribed medical grade footwear must be declared to MASS. Where MASS deems it appropriate an alternative source of supply shall be identified.
- Medical specialists with experience prescribing medical grade footwear who are not covered by the above list of speciality groups may apply in writing to MASS for consideration of inclusion as a designated medical prescriber.