

## ORTHOSES

### *Table of Contents*

|                                                                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>1. CATEGORIES OF ORTHOSES .....</b>                                                                  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2. FUNDING.....</b>                                                                                  | <b>2</b> |
| 2.1 SUBSIDY FOR ORTHOSES.....                                                                           | 2        |
| 2.1.1 <i>Subsidy and Reapplication for Adults</i> .....                                                 | 2        |
| 2.1.2 <i>Subsidy and Reapplication for Children</i> .....                                               | 2        |
| 2.1.3 <i>Subsidy for Modifications and Components for Orthoses</i> .....                                | 3        |
| 2.2 CO-PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS .....                                                                       | 3        |
| 2.3 APPLICANT OWNERSHIP .....                                                                           | 3        |
| 2.4 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE .....                                                                       | 3        |
| <b>3. MASS DESIGNATED PRESCRIBERS .....</b>                                                             | <b>3</b> |
| <b>4. PRESCRIBER ROLE .....</b>                                                                         | <b>4</b> |
| 4.1 PRESCRIBER RESPONSIBILITIES.....                                                                    | 4        |
| 4.2 POST DELIVERY FOLLOW-UP REVIEW .....                                                                | 4        |
| <b>5. CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ORTHOSES .....</b>                                                     | <b>4</b> |
| <b>6. MASS LIST OF ORTHOTISTS .....</b>                                                                 | <b>5</b> |
| <b>7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE .....</b>                                                                   | <b>5</b> |
| <b>8. ORTHOSES NOT SUBSIDISED BY MASS.....</b>                                                          | <b>6</b> |
| <b>ORTHOSES - DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART.....</b>                                                      | <b>7</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 1 – FLOW CHART: PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR SUBSIDY FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR ORTHOSES.....</b> | <b>8</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 2 – APPROVED CATEGORIES OF ORTHOSES AND DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART ...</b>                 | <b>9</b> |

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

## **1. CATEGORIES OF ORTHOSES**

Approved categories of orthoses are:

- Lower limb orthoses
  - hip knee ankle foot orthoses (HKAFO)
  - ankle foot orthoses (AFO)
  - knee orthoses (KO)
- Spinal orthoses
  - cervical orthoses (CO)
  - thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (TLSO)
  - cervico-thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (CTLSO)

Approved modifications and components may also be subsidised for orthoses.

## **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 the approved orthosis for the applicant.

MASS will not retrospectively subsidise orthoses and/or associated modifications and components.

### **2.1 Subsidy for Orthoses**

Approved applicants requiring bilateral orthoses will only be required to fund a contribution towards one orthosis.

#### **2.1.1 Subsidy and Reapplication for Adults**

Eligible adult applicants (16 years and older) will be required to fund a contribution of \$150 towards the cost of the prescribed orthosis. MASS will fund the remaining cost up to a maximum MASS funding of \$1,995.

The minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy for adults is eighteen months from the date of the applicant's previous MASS approval letter for an orthosis. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.

#### **2.1.2 Subsidy and Reapplication for Children**

Eligible child applicants (under 16 years) will be required to fund a contribution of \$60 towards the cost of the prescribed orthosis. MASS will fund the remaining cost up to a maximum MASS funding of \$1,995.

The minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy for children is twelve months from the date of the applicant's previous MASS approval letter for orthoses. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.

### **2.1.3 Subsidy for Modifications and Components for Orthoses**

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

- sole
- joint
- lining
- internal tongue
- external tongue
- heel ferrule
- drop lock
- ankle joint
- ischial weight bearing component
- hip joint
- T strap
- unilateral twister cable

MASS will consider funding other modifications and components for orthoses if requested and clinically/functionally justified.

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

MASS will *not* subsidise modifications and components to an applicant's existing orthosis.

## **2.2 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 contribution from the applicant/carer towards the cost of the orthosis must be paid directly to the supplier.

## **2.3 Applicant Ownership**

The applicant/carer will own any orthosis subsidised by MASS.

## **2.4 Repairs and Maintenance**

The applicant/carer will be responsible for the cost of ongoing repairs and maintenance and any future modifications or components for any orthoses subsidised by MASS.

## **3. MASS DESIGNATED PRESCRIBERS**

Refer to *Sub Section 'Orthoses – Designated Prescriber Chart'* at the end of this document for a list of approved medical specialist groups authorised to prescribe orthoses.

Prescribers of orthoses through MASS must also be medical specialists seeing the applicants in a *private* capacity. Public health system prescribers will need to apply for orthoses funding through their local Queensland Health Service District.

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

Medical specialists with experience prescribing orthoses who are not covered in *Sub Section 'Orthoses – 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 Responsibilities**

It is the prescriber's responsibility to:

- conduct a functional assessment of the applicant's needs
- provide a full description of the orthosis prescribed on the application form (MASS 60)
- advise the applicant/carer that he/she will be responsible for a contribution toward the cost of the orthosis
- involve an orthotist in the prescription process, 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 orthosis (or in rural & remote areas delegate responsibility to the applicant's treating allied health professional)
- advise the applicant/carer of the requirement for a MASS post delivery follow-up review.

### **4.2 Post Delivery Follow-up Review**

MASS requires that if the orthosis received does not meet the clients need the client should advise MASS and return with the orthosis 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 orthosis.

The post delivery follow up review should be performed between one and three weeks of the client being supplied with the orthosis to allow for sufficient trial period.

If, at the time of the follow-up review, the orthosis is found not to conform to 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.

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

## **5. CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ORTHOSES**

MASS subsidy provides assistance towards the cost of a range of orthoses to enhance mobility and/or management of persons with permanent and stabilised conditions or

disabilities within the home. MASS does not subsidise orthoses or modifications or components for orthoses if the primary function is outside the scope of the Scheme such as short term post acute treatment, community access or employment support.

Applications for orthoses must include the following details:

- the joint/s to which the orthosis is applied
- the required control or designated function
- the preferred components and materials.

Lower limb and spinal orthoses may be prescribed for skeletal or neurological impairment, for balance or gait problems or for pressure relief to manage impaired dermal integrity or pain on standing or walking.

Clinical outcomes may include:

- maintenance of a joint position
- protection of a joint
- redistribution of axial load
- improvement of mobility.

MASS may fund specialised components and/or modifications which are clinically/functionally justified to enhance the applicant's mobility and safety needs.

## **6. MASS LIST OF ORTHOTISTS**

MASS will only accept quotations from orthotists who have a recognised degree in prosthetics and orthotics or who can demonstrate eligibility for membership to the Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association (AOPA). To assist prescribers and applicants, MASS has a list of orthotists known to hold these qualifications or be eligible for membership to AOPA. This list is not definitive and does not preclude other orthotists who have a recognised degree in orthotics or who can demonstrate eligibility for membership to AOPA. MASS will provide a copy of the current list of approved orthotists to prescribers and applicants on request.

## **7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The following steps should be taken in order to apply to MASS for subsidised assistance for orthoses:

1. Applicant/carer obtains a referral from a general practitioner to make an appointment with a specialist from one of the MASS designated specialist prescriber groups *in private practice*. Refer to *Sub Section 'Orthoses – Designated Prescriber Chart'* at the end of this document for a list of approved medical specialist groups authorised to prescribe orthoses.
2. Prescriber undertakes a clinical assessment of the applicant and completes the clinical prescription in Part C of the MASS 60 application form. Clinical assessment should also involve an orthotist, 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 an orthotist of his/her choice from the MASS list of approved orthotists (available by contacting MASS).
4. The orthotist must see the applicant and the prescription from the specialist (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 orthotist'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 the supplier details.
8. On completion of the orthosis, the orthotist 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 orthosis 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 and prescriber, contact MASS immediately 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 above application process is at Appendix 1 of this document.

## **8. ORTHOSES NOT SUBSIDISED BY MASS**

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

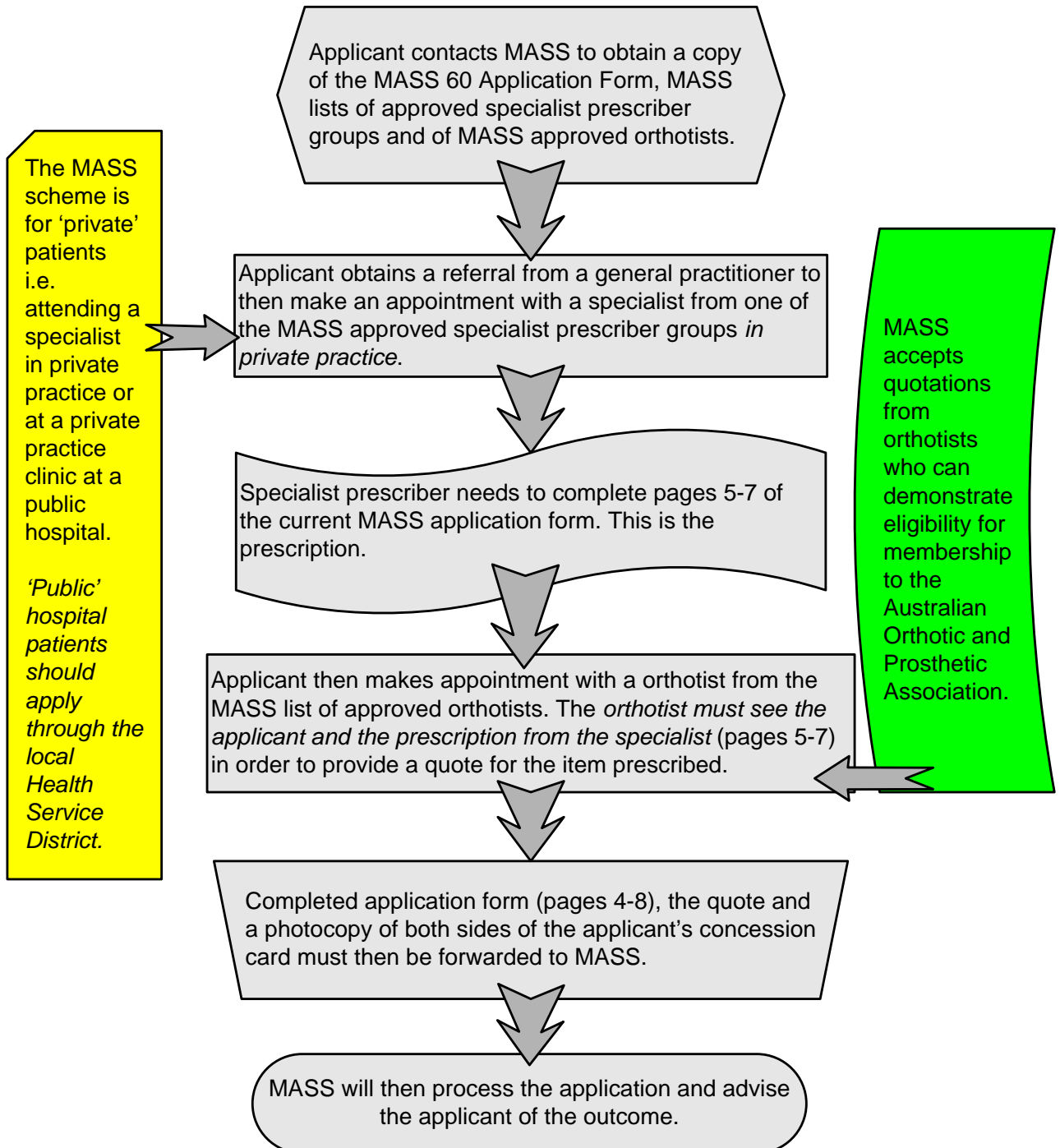
- prostheses for upper and/or lower limbs. The Queensland Amputee Limb Service (QALS) funds these items for eligible applicants.
- pressure garments/surgical stockings for oedema, circulatory control, scar management, postural support and neurological control
- reciprocating gait orthoses (RGOs) or equivalent mobility items
- surgical corsets
- cervical collars
- foot orthoses - insoles, inserts, arch supports, heel cushions, heel cups when not included with an application for medical grade footwear
- upper limb orthoses
- cranial orthoses
- thoraco-lumbo-sacral-hip-knee-ankle-foot support or equivalent (parapodium standing frame)
- hip abduction orthoses
- stock "sports type" guards (eg for knee, ankle, wrist, elbow)
- knee immobiliser (eg Richard dePuy)
- patella bands

### ORTHOSES - DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART

| Orthosis Categories            | Designated Medical Prescribers                                                                                                                                                      | Designated Medical Prescribers Rural and Remote                                                                                                                                     | Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) | Forms Required                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Lower Limb and Spinal Orthoses | <b>Private:</b><br>Orthopaedic Surgeons and Medical Specialists in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rheumatology</li> <li>• Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Geriatrics</li> </ul> | <b>Private:</b><br>Orthopaedic Surgeons and Medical Specialists in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rheumatology</li> <li>• Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Geriatrics</li> </ul> | No SOA applies                   | Application Form MASS 60<br><br>Supplier Quotation |

- Prescribers of orthoses through MASS must be medical specialists treating applicants in private practice.
- Prescribers cannot also be suppliers of orthoses. Any conflict of interest, personal or financial such as a vested interest in the provision of prescribed orthoses must be declared to MASS. Where MASS deems it appropriate an alternative source of supply shall be identified.
- Medical specialists with experience prescribing orthoses who are not covered by the above list of specialist 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 Orthoses



## APPENDIX 2 – Approved Categories of Orthoses and Designated Prescriber Chart

### ORTHOSES – APPROVED CATEGORIES

| Approved categories of orthoses                                                                                                                                                                            | MASS Subsidy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lower Limb Orthoses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hip knee ankle foot orthoses (HKAFO)</li> <li>• Ankle foot orthoses (AFO)</li> <li>• Knee orthoses (KO)</li> </ul>                     | Eligible <i>adult</i> applicants (16 years and older) will be required to fund a contribution of \$150 towards the cost of the prescribed orthoses.<br><br>Eligible <i>child</i> applicants (under 16 years) will be required to fund a contribution of \$60 towards the cost of the prescribed orthoses.<br><br>MASS will fund the remaining cost for adults and children up to a maximum MASS subsidy of \$1,995. |
| <b>Spinal Orthoses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cervical orthoses (CO)</li> <li>• Thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (TLSO)</li> <li>• Cervico-thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (CTLSO)</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### ORTHOSES - DESIGNATED PRESCRIBER CHART

| Orthoses Category                                                                                  | Designated Medical Prescribers                                                                                 | Designated Medical Prescribers Rural and Remote                                                                | Forms Required                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Limb Orthoses</li> <li>• Spinal Orthoses</li> </ul> | <b>Private:</b><br>Orthopaedic Surgeons and Medical Specialists in Rheumatology, Rehabilitation and Geriatrics | <b>Private:</b><br>Orthopaedic Surgeons and Medical Specialists in Rheumatology, Rehabilitation and Geriatrics | MASS 60<br><br>Orthotist Quotation |

- Prescribers of orthoses through MASS must be medical specialists treating applicants in private practice.
- Prescribers cannot also be suppliers of orthoses. Any conflict of interest, personal or financial such as a vested interest in the provision of prescribed orthoses must be declared to MASS. Where MASS deems it appropriate an alternative source of supply shall be identified.
- Medical specialists with experience prescribing orthoses who are not covered by the above list of specialist groups may apply in writing to MASS for consideration of inclusion as a designated medical prescriber.