

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

Orthoses

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What does MASS do?

- MASS provides access to subsidy funding for the provision of MASS endorsed aids and equipment to eligible Queensland residents with permanent and stabilised conditions or disabilities.
- The range of MASS aids and equipment is selected to assist people to live at home and avoid premature or inappropriate residential care or hospitalisation.

Q2. Does MASS provide subsidy funding assistance towards orthoses?

- Yes, MASS provides assistance towards spinal and lower limb orthoses to allow eligible people to live and mobilise within their own home.

Q3. What type of orthoses does MASS provide?

- MASS provides subsidised assistance towards lower limb orthoses such as ankle foot orthoses (AFO), knee orthoses (KO) and hip knee ankle foot orthoses (HKAFO), and spinal orthoses such as thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (TLSO).

Q4. Does MASS provide subsidised assistance towards components and modifications to orthoses?

- MASS provides subsidised assistance towards approved components and modifications to orthoses only when the component/modification is requested as part of the orthosis prescription.
- MASS does not subsidy fund any components or modifications to a person's existing orthosis.

Q5. Am I eligible for MASS subsidy funding assistance for orthoses?

- You may be eligible for assistance if you are a permanent resident of Queensland, have a permanent and stabilised condition or disability and hold a pensioner concession card, health care card or Queensland Government Seniors Card in your own right.
- You will also need to meet the MASS clinical eligibility criteria for orthoses.
- You will also need to see a medical specialist in a *private* capacity for the clinical prescription of the orthosis.
- Your medical specialist can advise whether you are eligible to apply for MASS subsidised assistance for orthoses.

Q6. Who can clinically assess me for MASS subsidised orthoses?

- To apply for MASS subsidised orthoses, you must be clinically assessed by a designated *private* medical specialist who can apply to MASS on your behalf.
- Your private medical prescriber must be from one of the following MASS designated medical specialist groups: orthopaedic surgeons or medical specialists in rheumatology, rehabilitation or geriatrics.
- Other medical specialists with experience in prescribing orthoses who are not covered by the above list of specialist groups, such as paediatricians, may apply to MASS for consideration of inclusion as a designated medical prescriber.

Q7. I am seeing a medical specialist at a public hospital and I am not a private patient. Who can assist me with funding for my orthosis?

- You will need to discuss options with your public hospital medical specialist.
- The public hospital system is responsible for provision of orthoses prescribed by public system medical specialists.

Q8. Can my allied health professional prescribe orthoses through MASS?

- No, allied health professionals such as podiatrists, physiotherapists and orthotists cannot prescribe orthoses through MASS.
- You must be referred by your general practitioner to a MASS designated private medical specialist to apply to MASS for orthoses.

Q9. Do I have to contribute towards the cost of my MASS subsidised orthoses?

- If you are an adult, you will be required to contribute \$150 towards the cost of your prescription, irrespective of whether you have been approved for unilateral or bilateral orthoses. MASS will contribute the balance of the total cost of the quotation up to a maximum MASS contribution of \$1,990.
- If you are a child (under 16 years of age), you will be required to contribute \$60 towards the cost of your prescription, irrespective of whether you have been approved for unilateral or bilateral orthoses. MASS will contribute the balance of the total cost of the quotation up to a maximum MASS contribution of \$1,990.
- Your payment is made direct to the supplier.

Q10. What forms do I need to apply for MASS subsidised orthoses?

- The MASS 60 application form is used for all applications for orthoses.
- The MASS 60 application form can be obtained from the MASS website at www.health.qld.gov.au/mass or by contacting the MASS Orthoses Service in Brisbane or Mackay.

Q11. Who can fill out my application form?

- You need to read, understand and retain Part A of the MASS 60 application form.
- You need to complete Parts B and D of the MASS 60 application form.
- Your prescribing medical specialist needs to complete Part C of the MASS 60 application form.

Q12. Do I need to see an orthosis supplier (orthotist)?

- Yes. After you have been clinically assessed by your prescribing medical specialist, you will need to take the prescription to one of the orthotists from the MASS approved list of designated orthotists.
- The orthotist will provide a quote for the prescribed orthosis which must be submitted to MASS with the MASS 60 application form and a copy of both sides of your eligibility/concession card.
- You may contact MASS for a copy of the MASS approved list of designated orthotists.

Q13. How will I know if my MASS application has been approved?

- If your application is complete and MASS requires no further information from you or your prescriber, you will receive a letter advising you of the outcome within a few weeks of submitting your application.

- If approved, the letter will also advise you of the MASS purchase order details and the amount of the contribution towards the cost of the orthosis that you will be required to pay directly to the orthotist.

Q14. How long will it take for the orthosis to be supplied after I pay my contribution to the orthotist?

- Supply times for orthoses can vary. You may contact the orthotist for an approximate delivery time.

Q15. What do I do if the orthosis supplied to me is unsuitable?

- In the first instance, contact the orthotist for assistance.
- If the orthotist cannot assist you, contact MASS and we will endeavour to resolve the problem to the satisfaction of all parties involved.

Q16. Does MASS pay for repairs to my MASS subsidised orthosis?

- No. MASS has deemed ownership of the orthosis to you. This means that you are responsible for all repairs and maintenance and any future components or modifications to your orthosis.

Q17. When can I reapply to MASS to replace my orthosis?

- For adults (16 years and older) the minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy funding is eighteen months from the date of the previous MASS orthosis approval letter.
- For children (under 16 years) the minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy funding is twelve months from the date of the previous MASS orthosis approval letter.

Q18. What do I do if my condition worsens or improves?

- If your condition changes for any reason, you must consult your general practitioner, treating allied health professional or your medical specialist.

Q19. How do I find out more about my orthosis?

- For further information, consult your treating allied health professional, your general practitioner and/or your medical specialist.

Q20. How do I find out more about MASS?

- For further information about MASS, you can visit the MASS website at www.health.qld.gov.au/mass or contact your nearest MASS office in Brisbane or Mackay.