

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

Application Guidelines for Medical Grade Footwear



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Published by the State of Queensland (Queensland Health), May 2022

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For more information contact:

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme, Metro South Health, Queensland Health, PO Box 281, Cannon Hill QLD 4170, email mass184@health.qld.gov.au, phone (07) 3136 3636.

An electronic version of this document is available at health.qld.gov.au/mass

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Medical Grade Footwear (MGF)

These guidelines must be read in conjunction with the [MASS General Guidelines](#).

Categories	Clinical Justification
<p>Prefabricated MGF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Off the shelf” footwear. • Must meet the minimum Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA) specifications. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Customised MGF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • May also be manufactured by a medical grade footwear supplier using standard lasts and patterns. • Prescribed and supplied where the level of disability does not require an individual mould and manufacture as required for custom made medical grade footwear. 	
<p>Custom made MGF</p> <p>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.</p>	

Modifications and Components for MGF	Clinical Justification and requirements
<p>MASS may subsidise the following modifications and components when they are part of the current prescription:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arch supports • toe fillers • internal wedges • build-ups (internal or external) • T straps • heel ferrules • in-shoe orthoses (insole – valgus, premetatarsal, other) • rocker soles • velcro closure system 	<p>MASS may consider funding in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 subsidise modifications and components to an applicant's existing footwear.

Medical grade footwear (MGF) 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 Podiatric Association of Australia (PAA) 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).

Funding Subsidy

Category	Maximum Subsidy
Prefabricated MGF	\$250
Customised MGF	<p>Level 1 – subsidy \$380</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heel and sole build-ups up to 30 mm • medial/lateral heel and sole postings • maximum 1cm forefoot/hind-foot rocker • medial/lateral heel or sole floats • attachment of hook and loop closures • upper stretching/ballooning • increase/decrease upper back height • split sizes.

Category	Maximum Subsidy
	Level 2 – subsidy \$580 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • split sizes with modifications • attachment of Caliper Plate/with or without T strap • Complex Rocker Action (inclusive of other side modification) • custom moulded in - shoe orthosis • closure extension of footwear upper • sole/heel build - up over 30mm • shoe re-lasting - unilateral/bilateral • heel buttress • combination of 2 or more level 1 modifications.
Custom made MGF	\$750

MASS will provide written authorisation to the supplier when funds are available to progress with the order. MASS will not retrospectively subsidise medical grade footwear and/or associated modifications and components.

Co-Payment

The contribution from the applicant/carer towards the cost of the medical grade footwear must be paid directly to the supplier. For further details, refer to the Subsidy Funding section of the [MASS General Guidelines](#).

Ownership, Repairs and Maintenance

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

Prescriber Role

In addition to the information in the MASS General Guidelines (section, Prescriber Role), the following guidelines are provided specifically for the funding of medical grade footwear:

- 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.

Allocation of aids

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.

If approved, MASS will advise client/carer and prescriber of the order confirmation and the supplier details.

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).

Post Delivery Follow-up review

- If the medical grade footwear is not functionally appropriate, the client should contact the supplier in the first instance to arrange resolution.
- If at the time of the follow-up review, the medical grade footwear is still found either not to conform with the prescription or to be clinically/functionally unsatisfactory, the prescriber should consult the supplier. 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 all parties.
- On receipt of invoice, MASS will contact each client to confirm satisfaction of the footwear prior to MASS subsidy payment.

Reapplication

Applicant	Timing
Adult (16 years and older)	The minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy is 18 months from the date of the previous MASS approval letter for medical grade footwear. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.
Child (under 16 years)	The minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy is 12 months from the date of the previous MASS approval letter for medical grade footwear. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.

Eligible Prescribers

- Private practice: Orthopaedic Surgeons and Medical Specialists in Rheumatology, Rehabilitation, Endocrinology, Vascular Surgeon, Neurology and Geriatrics.
- 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 orthoses 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 specialist groups may apply in writing to MASS for consideration of inclusion as a MASS designated medical prescriber.

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.
- New applicants are required to have attained Certification in Pedorthics (C.Retped.Au,C.Ped.Au, C.Ped.Cm.Au), be listed on the Medical Grade Footwear Register and can demonstrate membership of the Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA). 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 Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA).
- 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.

Application forms and documents

Application Type	Documents
Medical Grade Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MASS 60 Medical Grade Footwear Application Form.• Signed MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form or photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card• Quotation• MASS 82 MGF/ORTHO Consent for Photograph Form.• 2 photographs of Dorsal view AND Medial or Lateral view• MASS 70 Acquittal Form (if requested by MASS).

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

