Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

Application Guidelines for Orthoses
# Orthoses

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orthoses subsidised</th>
<th>Clinical Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Lower Limb Orthoses**  
Hip knee ankle foot orthoses (HKAFO)  
Ankle foot orthoses (AFO)  
Knee orthoses (KO) | • To enhance mobility and/or management of persons with permanent and stabilised conditions/disabilities.  
• MASS will not fund orthoses for post acute treatment, community access or employment support.  
• Applications must include details of:  
  – Joint/s to which orthosis is applied.  
  – The required control or designated function.  
  – The preferred components of 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 outcome may include:  
  – Maintenance of joint position.  
  – Protection of joint.  
  – Redistribution of axial load.  
  – Improvement of mobility. |
| **Spinal Orthoses**  
Thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (TLSO)  
Cervico-thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (CTLSO) |  

## Modifications and Components for Orthoses

MASS may subsidise the following modifications and components when they are part of the current prescription:
- sole
- joint
- lining
- internal tongue
- external tongue
- heel ferrule
- drop lock
- ankle joint
- ischial weight bearing component
- hip joint
- T strap
- Unilateral twister cable.

## Clinical Justification and requirements

MASS may consider funding in the following circumstances:
- if requested and clinically/functionally justified
- prescription must be completed and signed by an approved MASS prescriber
- MASS will not subsidise modifications and components to an applicant’s existing orthosis.

## Orthoses 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 (e.g. for knee, ankle, wrist, elbow).
- Knee immobiliser (e.g. Richard dePuy).
- Patella bands.
# Funding Subsidy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Maximum Subsidy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foot Orthosis</strong></td>
<td>UCBL Custom made (plastic composite)</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ankle Foot Orthosis (AFO)</strong></td>
<td>Fixed (Plastic) Custom made</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jointed (Plastic) Custom made</td>
<td>$660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bivalved Custom made</td>
<td>$850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Composite Fixed Custom made</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Composite Jointed Custom made</td>
<td>$1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Below Knee Metal Caliper (single metal uprights) Custom made</td>
<td>$730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Below Knee Metal Caliper (double metal uprights) Custom made</td>
<td>$820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additions – sole added to custom made</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (KAFO)</strong></td>
<td>Custom made</td>
<td>$2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knee Orthosis (KO)</strong></td>
<td>Prefabricated</td>
<td>$1320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fixed Custom made</td>
<td>$875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jointed Custom made</td>
<td>$1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hip Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (HKAFO)</strong></td>
<td>Custom made</td>
<td>$2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lumbo Sacral Orthosis (LSO)</strong></td>
<td>Custom made</td>
<td>$1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thoraco Lumbo Sacral Orthosis (TLSO)</strong></td>
<td>Custom made</td>
<td>$2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cervical Thoraco Lumbo Sacral Orthosis (CTLSO)</strong></td>
<td>Custom made</td>
<td>$2200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. MASS will fund up to a maximum of $2200 per application period.

N.B. MASS will only contribute to one item per limb.
MASS will provide written authorisation to the supplier when funds are available to progress with the order. MASS will not retrospectively subsidise orthoses and/or associated modifications and components.

**Co-Payment**

The contribution from the applicant/carer towards the cost of the orthosis must be paid directly to the supplier. For further details, refer to following section of the MASS General Guidelines:

- Subsidy Funding.

**Ownership, Repairs and Maintenance**

Orthoses are offered to clients based on private ownership. 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.

**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 Orthoses:

- 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.
## How to Apply

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant/Carer</th>
<th>Designated Prescriber/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 (see Eligible Prescribers section) | Prescriber undertakes a clinical assessment of the applicant and  
- Completes the clinical prescription in Part B of the MASS 60 Orthoses application form.
- Assists the applicant/carer to complete MASS 82 MGF/ORTHO Consent for Photograph Form
Clinical assessment should also involve an orthotist, if possible, to ensure that the most appropriate materials and components available are used. |
| Applicant/carer then completes Part A of the MASS 60 Orthoses application form and makes an appointment with an orthotist of his/her choice from the MASS list of approved orthotists (available by contacting MASS). | The orthotist sees the applicant and the prescription from the specialist (Part B of MASS 60 Orthoses application form) and provides a quotation for the item prescribed. |
| Applicant/carer:  
- Retains the cover sheet of the MASS 60 Orthoses application form  
- Collates the application to include:  
  - completed Part A and B  
  - orthotist’s quotation  
  MASS 82 MGF/ORTHO Consent for Photograph Form  
  - a copy of both sides of his/her current eligibility card/form. |
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 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).

Either the client or the orthotist must provide photographic verification of the fit of the orthosis as follows:

- Anterior/Posterior view and
- Medial and/or Lateral view.

Post Delivery Follow-up review

- If the orthosis 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 orthosis is still found either not to conform to 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 orthosis prior to MASS subsidy payment.

Reapplication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (16 years and older)</td>
<td>The minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy is 18 months from the date of the previous MASS approval letter for an orthosis. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (under 16 years)</td>
<td>The minimum reapplication period for further MASS subsidy is 12 months from the date of the previous MASS approval letter for an orthosis. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eligible Prescribers

- Private practice only: Orthopaedic Surgeons and Medical Specialists in Rheumatology, Rehabilitation, Neurology and Geriatrics.
- Public health system prescribers will need to apply for orthoses funding through their local Hospital and Health Service District
- 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.

MASS List of Orthotists

- MASS only accepts quotations from orthotists who have a recognised degree in prosthetics and orthotics or who can demonstrate eligibility for membership to an Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association (AOPA).
- 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 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.

Application forms and documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Orthoses         | - [MASS 60 Orthoses Application Form](#).  
- Signed [MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form](#) or photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card.  
- Orthotists quotation.  
- [MASS 82 MGF/ORTHO Consent for Photograph Form](#).  
- On completion of orthosis: 2 photographs of orthosis in situ to demonstrate fit. Anterior/Posterior view AND medial or Lateral view. |
Appendix 1 – Flow Chart: Procedure for Applying for Subsidy Funding Assistance for Orthoses

1. Applicant contacts MASS to obtain a copy of the MASS 60 Orthoses Application Form, MASS lists of approved specialist prescriber groups and of MASS approved orthotists.

2. Applicant obtains a referral from a general practitioner, then makes an appointment with a specialist from one of the MASS approved specialist prescriber groups in private practice.

3. Specialist prescriber needs to complete pages 3 and 4 of the current MASS applicant form. This is the prescription.

4. Applicant then makes an appointment with an orthotist from the MASS list of approved orthotists. The orthotist must see the applicant and the prescription from the specialist (pages 3 and 4) in order to provide a quote for the item prescribed.

5. Completed application form (pages 1-4), the quote, a photocopy of both sides of the applicant’s concession card and MASS 82 MGF/ORTHO Consent for Photography Form must be then forwarded to MASS.

6. MASS will then process the application and advise the applicant of the outcome.

The MASS scheme is for ‘private’ patients i.e. attending a specialist in private practice or at a private practice clinic at a public hospital.

MASS accepts quotations from orthotists who can demonstrate eligibility for membership to the Australian Orthotic and Prosthetic Association.