

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

Application Guidelines for Orthoses



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Orthoses

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

Orthoses subsidised	Clinical Justification
<p>Lower Limb Orthoses Hip knee ankle foot orthoses (HKAFO) Ankle foot orthoses (AFO) Knee orthoses (KO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintenance of joint position. – Protection of joint. – Redistribution of axial load. – Improvement of mobility.
<p>Spinal Orthoses Thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (TLSO) Cervico-thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthoses (CTLSO) Lumbo Sacral Orthosis (LSO)</p>	

Modifications and Components for Orthoses	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"> • sole • joint • lining • internal tongue • external tongue • heel ferrule • drop lock • ankle joint • ischial weight bearing component • hip joint • T strap • Unilateral twister cable. 	<p>MASS may consider funding in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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

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 the Subsidy Funding section of the [MASS General Guidelines](#).

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.

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

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 an orthosis. 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 an orthosis. Waiting lists may delay supply beyond this minimum reapplication period.

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

Application Type	Documents
Orthoses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

