



**Australian Government**  

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**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**NOTES FOR  
ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS  
SECTION 2(n)  
ORTHOTISTS**

This section of the Notes for Allied Health Providers must be read in conjunction with Section 1 – General

**Table of Contents**

<i>Providing orthotic services</i>	3
<i>Treatment Cycle</i>	3
<i>Treatment thresholds/limits</i>	3
<i>Prior financial authorisation</i>	3
<i>Restrictions on consultation services</i>	3
<i>Restrictions on supply of orthotic items</i>	4
<i>Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP)</i>	5

**Providing orthotic services**

These Notes should be read in conjunction with Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General.

1. To be eligible to provide orthotic services to an entitled person, you must:
  - a) be a member, or be eligible for membership, of the Australian Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA);
  - b) have signed the Terms and Conditions to provide orthotic services under DVA health care arrangements, including the DVA *Orthotists Schedule of Fees*; and
  - c) be a registered DVA provider at the time the service is provided.
2. For information on registering with DVA to provide orthotic services to entitled persons, contact the DVA provider line on 1800 550 457 and follow the prompts.

**Treatment Cycle**

3. For information on the treatment cycle arrangements, which came into effect on 1 October 2019, refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General.

**Treatment thresholds/limits**

4. The number of treatments or consultations and supply of orthoses must fall within the limits of the DVA *Orthotists Schedule of Fees*. For more information on treatment thresholds and limits refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General [clauses 20-23].

**Prior financial authorisation**

5. The specific item numbers requiring prior financial authorisation are indicated by shading in the DVA *Orthotists Schedule of Fees*. Prior financial authorisation is also required when the cost or quantity of an item exceeds the amount specified in the DVA *Orthotists Schedule of Fees*. Please consult this document to identify those items requiring prior financial authorisation. Fee scheduled are available at:

[www.dva.gov.au/providers/fees-schedules/dental-and-allied-health-fee-schedules](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/fees-schedules/dental-and-allied-health-fee-schedules)

6. For information on how to seek prior financial authorisation, refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General [clauses 51-56]

**Restrictions on consultation services**

7. While all orthotic services claimed must be in accordance with the client's clinical need, the following specific restrictions exist:
  - a) Only one initial consultation item can be claim for an entitled person per treatment cycle. Should a patient require an additional treatment cycle, their GP will issue a new referral which will result in another initial consultation.

- b) A subsequent consultation and an initial consultation cannot be provided on the same day for the same entitled person.
- c) Only one subsequent consultation per entitled person can be provided each day.

### Restrictions on supply of orthotic items

8. The following restrictions apply to the provision of orthotic items:

- a) Orthotists can either:
  - i. prescribe and supply under the DVA *Orthotists Schedule of Fees*; **or**
  - ii. prescribe an orthotic item under the DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP). A DVA-contracted RAP supplier for Mobility and Functional Support will supply the item to the requesting orthotist, who will fit the item to the entitled person.
- b) The prescription of an orthotic item must fall within the following categories:
  - i. **Prefabricated.** An orthosis that is pre-made and supplied without customisation. Minor adjustments, such as adjusting the straps to fit the client, may be made to meet the specific needs of the entitled person. This may include compression garments, post-operative footwear and controlled ankle motion walkers.
  - ii. **Customised.** An orthosis that is pre-made and subsequently customised through modifications and/or adjustments to meet the specific needs of the entitled person. This includes customisation required by the manufacturer or that otherwise modifies how the device functions. This may include modifications to the foot plate of an ankle foot orthosis.
  - iii. **Custom.** A highly specialised device that is designed and manufactured from a cast, mould or scan of the body part to meet the specific needs of the entitled person. The device cannot be fitted to another entitled person.
- c) For prefabricated or customised orthoses, orthotists must fit the item within three weeks from the date the entitled person was assessed and prescribed.
- d) For custom orthoses, orthotists must seek prior financial authorisation before supply. If DVA has authorised the supply, orthotists must manufacture and fit the item within six weeks from the date DVA provided written consent confirming the supply.
- e) If an orthotic item is supplied under the RAP, orthotists can only claim the relevant initial and subsequent consultation item numbers (UT01 – UT12) and cannot claim the orthotic item numbers (UT13 – UT35 and UT39).
- f) If an orthotic item is supplied under the DVA *Orthotists Schedule of Fees*, orthotists may claim the supply, subject to prior financial authorisation requirements, as outlined in the table below.

Prescription	Claiming
Prefabricated orthotic item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant initial and subsequent consultation item numbers (UT01 – UT12)</li> <li>Relevant orthotic item number (UT13, UT16, UT18, UT21, UT25, UT28, UT31 or UT39) up to the invoiced cost only, not exceeding the maximum fee</li> <li>Postage, if required (UT40)</li> </ul>
Customised orthotic item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant initial consultation item numbers only (UT01, UT03, UT05, UT07, UT09 or UT11)</li> <li>Relevant orthotic item number (UT14, UT17, UT19, UT22, UT26, UT29, UT32 or UT39), which includes follow-up/subsequent consultations within the fee</li> <li>Scan, cast or foam impression of body parts (UT34)</li> <li>Postage, if required (UT40)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Cannot claim subsequent consultation item numbers (UT02, UT04, UT06, UT08, UT10 or UT12)</p>
Custom orthotic item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant initial consultation item numbers only (UT01, UT03, UT05, UT07, UT09 or UT11)</li> <li>Relevant orthotic item number (UT15, UT20, UT23, UT24, UT27, UT30, UT33 or UT39), which includes follow-up/subsequent consultations within the fee</li> <li>Scan, cast or foam impression of body parts (UT34)</li> <li>Manufacture of custom orthosis (UT35)</li> <li>Postage, if required (UT40)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Cannot claim subsequent consultation item numbers (UT02, UT04, UT06, UT08, UT10 or UT12)</p>

### Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP)

- Orthotists are recognised prescribers of certain appliances under the Department's Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP). When utilising the RAP scheme, prescribers must issue the RAP item prescription to the appropriate contracted supplier. Contact DVA to obtain full details including which appliances you can prescribe, prescription forms and information on contracted RAP suppliers.
- Further information on RAP, including which providers are eligible to prescribe RAP items, is available on the DVA website or by contacting DVA. The RAP schedule of items can be found at:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/provider-programmes/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap>