Equipment Program

Medical Grade Footwear Specific Eligibility Criteria

February 2015

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| Assessor / Prescriber | Prescriber Level | Delegate approval required |
| Podiatrist / Pedorthist / Orthotist / Physiotherapist | Item specific approved prescriber status | Yes |

Medical Grade Footwear definition

Medical Grade Footwear (MGF) is designed to provide support and appropriate pressure distribution, whilst the client is weight bearing. It assists to compensate for permanent and major deformity or dysfunction of the foot and has specialised or customised features designed to meet the individual needs of the client.

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| **Medical Grade Footwear - Prefabricated** | Off the shelf Medical Grade Footwear requiring no change to suit the person's needs |
| **Medical Grade Footwear - Customised** | Off the shelf Medical Grade Footwear that are customised to the specific needs of the person |
| **Medical Grade Footwear - Custom made** | Medical Grade Footwear that are custom made to the needs and measurements of the person |

Clinical indicators for provision of Medical Grade Footwear (MGF)

MGF will be provided in the following circumstances with prescription by an Approved Prescriber and when it can be demonstrated that:

**1. One or more of the following key approval criteria for equipment apply:**

* **Safety:** MGF will minimise the risk of serious injury to the client.
* **Independence/function:** without MGF the client is compromised when completing daily living tasks.
* **Prevention of deterioration:** MGF will reduce progression of functional and or postural deterioration.
* **Potential for functional gain:** MGF will facilitate the client to make improvements in their functional capacity.

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**3. Regular, off the shelf commercially available footwear is not suitable due to:**

* Extraordinary footwear required to accommodate orthomechanical device (e.g. orthotic, caliper, Ankle Foot Orthoses) or permanent therapeutic intervention (e.g. insole, metatarsal dome, toe prop, toe cap)
* Modifications (e.g. rocker sole, shoe raise) or Custom Made MGF are required to accommodate disability.

Provided as clinically required

MGF will be provided when regular, off the shelf commercially available footwear are not suitable to meet the clinical needs of the client. In all situations the most cost effective method to address the concerns of the client will be implemented first. The footwear provided includes:

* **Medical Grade Footwear - Prefabricated**
* **Medical Grade Footwear - Customised**
* **Medical Grade Footwear - Custom Made;**  only when prefabricated or customised footwear are not available to meet the individual needs (due to the expense of manufacturing this type of footwear).

Not provided

* Regular, commercially available off the shelf footwear
* Sandals, high heeled, slip on footwear
* For aesthetic reasons
* When a client has had intervention by an acute care service provider (e.g. hospital) the external service is responsible for the issue of the footwear (i.e. post operative footwear)
* Repairs to any privately purchased MGF will not be provided by the DCSI Equipment Program.

Maintenance and replacement guidelines

* 1 pair of MGF will not be replaced more than annually; unless in exceptional circumstances
* MGF will only be considered for replacement when they are non-functional and beyond repair to a safe or reliable condition or when the client’s needs change and the MGF are no longer clinically suitable.
* Repairs to DCSI funded MGF will be covered by the DCSI Equipment Program.

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