

Introduction

This glossary provides definitions of the orthotic devices available through the following Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) programs:

- At Home Program Medical Benefits; and,
- Children in Care Medical Benefits Program.

It is intended to clarify the terminology used when reviewing requests for orthotic benefits, so that eligible children and youth may access needed devices in a timely manner. This glossary was developed with the input of professionals, and is used specifically for the purposes of the programs noted above. Professionals are asked to use the appropriate device name on the [Request for Orthotics](#) form (as shown in the 'Name of Device' columns on the following pages).

Orthotic devices that are not defined in this glossary may not be available through At Home Program Medical Benefits or the Children in Care Medical Benefits Program. For more information, please contact Medical Benefits, MCFD, at:

- Toll-free: 1 888 613-3232
- Victoria: 250 387-9649

Comments about this glossary may be sent to mcf.healthsupports@gov.bc.ca.

General Orthotics

Name of Device	Purpose	Body Part(s) Encompassed	Other Key Features
Orthotic ¹	To provide support, protection or correction to limbs and/or joints, in order to improve function, decrease pain and/or increase range of motion	Varies, depending on the type of orthotic device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally applied device • May be fabricated from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ high-temperature material that is molded onto plaster molds of the body part, or; ○ low-temperature material that can be heated and molded directly onto the body
Dynamic Device	To assist in muscle movement	Varies, depending on the type of device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits motion • May have a dual- or bilateral-tension-providing mechanism • Includes the use of outrigger devices that serve as a point of attachment for energy-storing materials (e.g., springs, rubber bands)
Static Device	To serve as a rigid support, in order to protect, immobilize and prevent or correct contractures	Varies, depending on the type of device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not permit motion

¹This includes devices commonly referred to as “splints.”

Upper-Extremity Devices

Name of Device	Purpose	Body Part(s) Encompassed	Other Key Features	Dynamic or Static
Cervical Collar ²	To secure the cervical vertebrae in a neutral position, in order to prevent cervical flexion, extension or rotation	Encircles the neck, supporting the chin and occipital area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be fabricated using plastic, foam or plastazole materials • Types of cervical collars include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soft Collar ○ Rigid Collar (e.g., Philadelphia, Miami J, Atlas, Patriot) ○ Supportive Collar (e.g., Headmaster) ○ Halo / Sterno-Occipital Mandibular Immobilization Collar 	Either
Wrist-Hand Resting Orthotic	To keep the wrist and hand in a neutral position and protect them during times of rest and healing	Wrist and hand	N/A	Static
Wrist Orthotic	To provide support and immobilization of the wrist, leaving the fingers and/or thumb free	Wrist and/or thumb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases, the thumb may also be immobilized to improve function 	Static
Wrist-Hand Orthotic	To provide grasp and release, despite some degree of hand paralysis	Hand (including fingers) and wrist, terminating at the distal portion of the forearm	N/A	Dynamic

² This includes devices commonly referred to as “neck braces” or “neck splints.”

Upper-Extremity Devices con't

Name of Device	Purpose	Body Part(s) Encompassed	Other Key Features	Dynamic or Static
Hand Orthotic	Dynamic Hand Orthotic: To maintain support while providing corrective force in positioning the fingers, assisting weak motor finger-extensor function	Hand (including fingers)	Used with outrigger supports, cuffs, elastic threads, rubber bands and hook applications for their function in providing dynamic assistance	Dynamic
	Static Hand Orthotic: To provide rigid support, in order to protect and immobilize the thumb	Hand and thumb (excluding other fingers)	N/A	Static

Lower-Extremity Devices

Name of Device	Purpose	Body Part(s) Encompassed	Other Key Features
Low-Temperature Ankle-Foot Orthotic	Articulating Low-Temperature Ankle-Foot Orthotic: To maintain appropriate alignment, provide stability and allow ankle motion during gait	Ankle and foot (may extend to the area just below the knee)	Fabricated from low-temperature material ³
	Non-Articulating Low-Temperature Ankle-Foot Orthotic: To provide rigid support, in order to immobilize and protect the ankle joint	Ankle and foot (may extend to the area just below the knee)	Fabricated from low-temperature material ³

³ Requests for ankle-foot orthoses that are:

- fabricated from high-temperature material, and;
- required for at least one year and throughout the day, should be forwarded to PharmaCare.

Lower-Extremity Devices con't

Name of Device	Purpose	Body Part(s) Encompassed	Other Key Features	Dynamic or Static
Foot Orthotic ⁴	To control foot function by treating imbalances and modifying areas of weight-bearing	Foot (below the ankle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be fabricated from a variety of materials, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rigid: firm material such as plastic or carbon fiber ○ Semi-Rigid: constructed of layers of soft materials and reinforced with stiffer materials to allow for dynamic balance of the foot ○ Soft: constructed of soft, compressible materials to attenuate shock 	Either
Bilateral Twister Cables	To provide tibial torsion or femoral antitorsion, in order to improve the position of the feet on standing and walking	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twisted strands that connect the waist belt to the shoes 	N/A
Orthopaedic Shoes	If required to accommodate a medical condition (to a maximum of \$200 per year)	Foot	N/A	N/A

⁴ This includes devices commonly referred to as “foot splints.”