

Podiatrists have provided HICAPS with valuable feedback regarding the 'challenges' of claiming electronically for orthoses – "singles" and "pairs". HICAPS, in response to this feedback, has been working with the Australasian Podiatry Council and health funds to make the interpretation of orthomechanical services (orthoses) by the HICAPS participating health funds more uniform and simple.

The following health funds (see list below) will now interpret orthoses as "singles" for claiming purposes.

HEALTH FUNDS THAT INTERPRET ORTHOTIC ITEM NUMBERS AS "SINGLES":

ACA	HCF	
AHMG	HCI	Navy Health
Australian Unity BUPA/HBA/Mutual Community	Health-Partners	NIB
CBHS	HIF OF WA	NRMA/SGIC/SGIO
Credicare	Latrobe Health Services	Phoenix Health Fund
Defence Health	Lysaght PeopleCare	St Lukes
Federation Health	Manchester Unity	Teachers Union Health
GMHBA	MBF	Union Shopper Health
Grand United	Medibank Private Limited	Transport Friendly Society

Therefore, when processing a claim for a "pair" you should enter the relevant item number twice in the claim transaction. This applies to all item numbers listed under the section 'Orthomechanical Services' in the "Podiatrists Procedural Terminology" (www.apodc.com.au).

However, please note that for claims involving "pairs" some health funds (**See example A**) will allocate the full benefit against the first item number. Therefore it may appear that no benefit was approved for the repeated item number.

Some health funds, however, have an annual limit per foot for orthoses and therefore their claims may appear as in **Example B**:

Example (A)

For example: Claim for a "pair" of Orthoses at a cost of \$300:

Item	Cost	Benefit approved	Health Fund response
221	\$150	\$150	Approved
221	\$150	\$0	Benefit limit reached.

Note: Patient's annual limit for Orthoses in this example is \$150

Example (B)

For example: Claim for a "pair" of Orthoses at a cost of \$300:

Item	Cost	Benefit approved	Health Fund response
221	\$150	\$75	Approved
221	\$150	\$75	Approved.

Note: Patient's annual limit for Orthoses in this example is \$75 per foot.

The exception to the above is Teachers Federation Health who currently interprets the orthotic item numbers as "pairs" and will pay the full "approved" benefit on the first item number. Therefore, for Teachers Federation Health you need only to key the relevant item number once.

The following health funds *are not* currently accepting claims for orthoses via HICAPS: Mildura District Hospital Fund, Queensland Country Health and AMA Health Fund. As these changes have already been implemented, we now encourage you to process these items electronically to ensure that you are maximising your savings on bank fees and patients convenience. We suggest that you keep this notice close to the HICAPS terminal to assist you when processing these items.