

Diabetic Foot Ulcer / Neuropathic Foot Ulcers

Obtaining PharmaCare Coverage for Post-Wound Closure Orthotics Offloading Devices Referral Process

Once a client's Diabetic Foot Ulcer (DFU) or Neuropathic Foot Ulcer (NFU) has closed they need to have offloading footwear to support the closed wound in its healing phase and to prevent the occurrence of another DFU/NFU.

This purpose of this process is to lay out the steps to [refer](#) a client, registered with PharmaCare, to a Certified Orthotist enrolled with PharmaCare for custom-designed offloading footwear which is covered by PharmaCare. The Orthotist can also provide 'off-the-shelf' offloading devices, but these are not covered by PharmaCare.

If the client is not registered with PharmaCare or is willing to cover the cost of any type of offloading device, then the client can be referred to a Pedorthist or a Podiatrist (different referral process).

1. For the client diagnosed with a DFU or NFU, the physician/nurse practitioner/NSWOC/WC* determines with the care team the wound treatment plan including the most appropriate PHSA Supply Chain contracted wound offloading therapy** (Total Contact Casting (TCC), boot, shoe, etc.,) for the client.
2. The referral to a Certified Orthotist for PharmaCare-covered custom offloading devices*** should be done, with the client's verbal consent, when the DFU/NFU is approaching wound closure:
 - The clinic, health unit or LTC home making the referral **must** be listed in the *British Columbia Health Authority Diabetic or Neuropathic Foot Ulcer Treatment Clinics / Health Units / LTC Care Homes* [document](#).
 - The referral must go to one of the orthotics clinics on [the BC PharmaCare Enrolled Orthotics Providers](#) list.
 - The referral must be signed by the NSWOC/WC, or physician/nurse practitioner overseeing the DFU/NFU treatment.

The Treatment Clinic/Health Unit/LTC Home list is used by the orthotic providers to ensure the referral is coming from a health authority operated site. To have a clinic/health unit added to the list, please contact your Health Authority NSWOC Lead.

3. Upon receiving the referral, the Orthotist will set up an appointment with the client to determine the client's offloading device(s) treatment plan and then apply to PharmaCare for approval of coverage.
4. PharmaCare approves the devices for coverage subject to the person's type of plan and deductible requirements. There are three PharmaCare plans:
 - Plan I (Fair PharmaCare): client must be registered for this plan and have an active Medical Services Plan (MSP). Coverage is based on the client's income as per their income tax return of two years ago. It has two components, a deductible and family maximum, if applicable. The client needs to pay their deductible first. Once the deductible is met, the plan covers 70% of costs (or 75% for those born before 1940) until the family maximum is reached, after which 100% is covered. Note: the PharmaCare year starts on January 1st.



- Plan B: for permanent residents of a Long-Term Care home which is registered with PharmaCare; 100% coverage for eligible costs with no deductible or family maximum. To know if the LTC home is registered, contact the LTC Director or the LTC’s pharmacy.
- Plan C: for clients receiving income assistance and/or disability benefits from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR); 100% coverage for eligible costs with no deductible or family maximum.

Note: the client may have other forms of coverage for these types of devices:

- Eligible First Nations persons are covered through First Nations Health Authority/Pacific Blue Cross Medical Supplies & Equipment Benefits program; or Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB).
- SDPR provides funding (separate from PharmaCare Plan C) for adult orthoses through their Health Supplements Program.
- Private insurance.

* NSWOC/WC – either a Nurse Specialized in Wound Ostomy & Continence or Wound Clinician who is in a Health Authority defined NSWOC/WC position.

**See WOC Formulary’s Lower Limb tab for list of offloading devices (TCC, boots, shoes); note HA order numbers are being worked on.

***PharmaCare will provide coverage and replacement for the following offloading devices as well as adjustments:

Orthotic insert	\$675.00	One pair covered every 36 months
Orthotic footwear	\$350.00	One pair covered every 12 months
Orthotic cover	\$75.00	Four/per foot every 12 months

[PINs and reimbursement schedule for offloading devices - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/pins-and-reimbursement-schedule-for-offloading-devices)