

Provision of Custom Prescription Foot Orthoses (PCFO) during CV-19 Pandemic - Modified Advisory 13th May 2020

Protocol

- A point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) must be performed by Chiropracist and Podiatrist before every patient interaction.
- Assessment, Casting and Dispensing of custom foot orthotics must still be completed in adherence of the COCOO Prescription Custom Foot Orthoses Standard:
- Follow up on dispensed orthotics must still be completed as per the Orthotic Standard:
 - *The requirements for follow-up for the dispensing of prescription custom foot orthoses includes the following:*

Provide short term instructions for usage of the PCFO Offer a follow-up appointment within a reasonable period of time after dispensing the orthotic devices (such as 3-4 weeks). This should be documented in the patient record. A telephone follow-up would suffice, if the patient does not require, or will not attend, a follow-up visit. Advise the patient regarding the need for periodic long-term check-ups.[1]

Considerations for Emergency/ Urgent Care and Appointments^[2]

After considering the provincial guidelines it can be beneficial to also consider the following questions in relation to the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH directive), Public Health Ontario (PHO) guidelines, and COCoo standards and guidelines when determining if the care is urgent:

- What are the possible consequences to the client if I do not provide the client with service? Examples might include:

[1] http://www.cocoo.on.ca/pdf/standards/standard_orthotics.pdf

[2] <https://www.cpedcs.ca/>

– *Is the patient at risk of further foot injury or complications if treatment is not provided.*

- If a patient does not receive my professional treatment at this time will their condition deteriorate and to what extent?

– *Patients who are unable to work or are having difficulty working because of foot related pain.*

– *Patients who are unable to perform daily physical activity because of foot related pain.*

- Am I able to meet my patient's needs using alternative means?

– *There are many different levels of treatment in a Members such as custom foot orthotic assessment and dispensing, footwear fitting and stretching and exercise protocols. Can I administer care by advising protocols that reduce the risk of direct patient contact?*

- Do I have the capacity, tools, and resources to prioritize patients and treatments, and safeguard their health and mine for in-person visits?

– *Do I have access to proper PPE and sanitary conditions that allow me to follow my College and provincial guidelines.*

Clinical Requirements

- Refer to updated COVID-19 IPAC and PPE requirements
- If you do not have access to proper PPE and sanitary conditions that allow providers to follow College and PHO guidelines, then you will need to reschedule patients at a later date
- Patient must be masked (fabric mask, scarf etc.) for duration of appointment

Clinical Considerations (*These considerations are for patient safety during gait assessment)

- Special attention in regard to contact with footwear of patient: ensure change of gloves after touching footwear and before coming in contact with patient.
- Ensure adequate disinfection (IPA 70%) of feet before and after gait analysis.*
- Consider having a patient remove footwear at the entrance before walking throughout the clinic.*
- Consider providing patients with disposable booties to wear over sock feet when walking to the treatment room.*
- When possible, areas for gait assessment should be separate from high traffic areas such as near the entrance/front desk/other treatment rooms.*

This is a situation that continues to evolve, and we want to make sure that we are providing you with the right information to keep Chiropodists and Podiatrists and the public safe. As circumstances change and new guidelines or directives are received from the government, we will keep you updated on what steps are advisable in administering safe and ethical care to the public.

It is essential that in these difficult times, COCOO members operate within their scope of practice. Thank you for upholding your professional responsibility, and your continued support in protecting the public of Ontario.

Relevant Sources

List of Essential Services, Health Care and Social Services, Province of Ontario, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces#section-16>.

Prescription Custom Foot Orthoses, College of Chiropodists of Ontario, http://www.cocoo.on.ca/pdf/standards/standard_orthotics.pdf.