

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM PRESCRIBING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS**

For people with lower limb ailments, pedorthics can be the difference between being able to **watch**, and being able to **do**.

Below are a few of the most commonly asked questions Canadian Certified Pedorthists receive from prescribing healthcare providers:

### **WHAT MAKES A CANADIAN CERTIFIED PEDORTHIST DIFFERENT FROM OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO PROVIDE ORTHOSES?**

Canadian Certified Pedorthists are one of the few healthcare professionals educated in the assessment, design, fit, manufacture, and modification of footwear and foot orthoses. A Canadian Certified Pedorthist has extensive training and experience in dealing with the biomechanics of the foot and in selecting appropriate footwear. In order to become a Canadian Certified Pedorthist, they have undergone a rigorous examination process testing their knowledge about biomechanics, disease, anatomy, orthosis fabrication and fitting as well as footwear function, design and modification. Canadian Certified Pedorthists work as part of the medical team and require a referral from a prescribing healthcare provider in order to provide treatment. In addition to providing a gait analysis, a Canadian Certified Pedorthist is also trained to manufacture orthoses, modify footwear and recommend and fit appropriate footwear.

### **HOW ARE PATIENTS REFERRED TO CANADIAN CERTIFIED PEDORTHISTS?**

A referral is a prescription from a prescribing healthcare provider, such as a physician. This can be as simple as "Please Assess and Treat," or as complex as a full biomechanical assessment from the prescribing healthcare provider requesting a specific device, modification, or manufacture of custom-made footwear. Following the pedorthic assessment, the Certified Canadian Pedorthist will indicate the underlying condition to the physician to enable the physician to make the appropriate diagnosis. It is the fundamental right of the physician or other prescribing healthcare provider to diagnose the nature and extent of the patient's disability and to prescribe the devices and footwear that in their judgment is medically indicated.

## **WHO PAYS FOR PEDORTHIC SERVICES?**

Most insurance companies provide coverage through their extended health benefits packages, third party groups and government or other agencies including (but not exclusive to) Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) through Health Canada, Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (Ontario), Workman's Compensation Board (WCB), Social Services, the Department of Veteran Affairs and motor vehicle accident insurance claims. There may be other payers exclusive to each province. Patients without insurance cover their own costs for pedorthic products and services.

For more information about pedorthics in Canada please visit **[www.pedorthic.ca](http://www.pedorthic.ca)**