



Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Policy

1. Purpose

The *Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Policy* (the policy) sets out the mandatory requirements for Health Service Providers that provide clinical services inclusive of the provision of assistive technology for domestic use and home modifications to eligible patients.

The policy ensures the consistent provision of assistive technology and home modifications in line with legislative requirements, the pursuit of equity, service based on assessed clinical need, and cost-effective use of resources.

The provision of assistive technology and home modifications must comply with relevant clinical and other standards/legislation, including Infection Control standards, the requirements of the [Therapeutic Goods Act 1989](#) and [Therapeutic Goods \(Medical Devices\) Regulations 2002](#) and the [Building Code of Australia](#).

This policy is a mandatory requirement for Health Service Providers under the *Clinical Services and Planning Policy Framework* pursuant to section 26(2)(c) of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to all Health Service Providers that provide publicly funded clinical services inclusive of the provision of assistive technology for domestic use and home modifications to eligible patients.

The requirements contained within this policy are applicable to the services purchased from contracted health entities where it is explicitly stated in the contract between the contracted health entity and the State of Western Australia or Health Service Provider. The State of Western Australia or Health Service Provider contract manager is responsible for ensuring that any obligation to comply with this policy by the contracted health entity is accurately reflected in the relevant contract and managed accordingly.

3. Policy Requirements

This policy must be read in conjunction with the [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Procedural Requirements](#) which outlines the mandatory procedures to be followed in assessment, prescription and provision of assistive technology and home modifications to eligible patients.

Health Service Providers (HSPs) must ensure that patients receive equitable access to assistive technology and home modifications based on clinical need within an appropriate time frame, regardless of geographical location within WA.

HSPs must procure assistive technology and home modifications through the [Supply of Patient Aids and Appliances to Western Australian Health Service Providers Contract HSS103218](#) when the required item is listed in the [Contract Product Information Schedule](#).

3.1 Eligibility

To be eligible to receive assistive technology or home modifications, a patient must meet criteria 1 and 2.

1. be a current or recently admitted public patient, or non-admitted public patient who receives services from a public or private hospital
2. have been assessed by an appropriate employee as requiring one or more items of assistive technology or home modifications in relation to the episode of care described in criteria 1, to:
 - aid recovery and/or achieve independence in activities of daily living
 - facilitate safe, effective and timely discharge
 - support the patient to continue living in the community.

Patients are not eligible to receive assistive technology or home modifications if they can obtain the required item from another service or program in an appropriate timeframe. See [Procedural Requirements](#) section 3.7 for other services or programs that may provide assistive technology and home modifications. Basic and essential assistive technology will be loaned for a negotiated period, until the required items are provided by another service or program.

Patients must meet residential circumstances eligibility criteria as outlined in section 3.2 of the [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Procedural Requirements](#).

3.2 Categories of assistive technology and home modifications

This policy applies to the following categories of assistive technology and home modifications.

Inclusions		
Bed assistive technology	Positioning and seating	Walking aids
Communication aids	Personal hygiene	Wheeled mobility devices
Daily living	Transfer aids	Home modifications
Exclusions		
Consumable items	Continence aids	Medical/biomedical equipment
Footwear	Implantable devices	Orthoses and prostheses

In addition to those considerations outlined in the [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Procedural Requirements](#), assistive technology and home modifications provided must meet the following criteria:

- be the most basic option that meets the assessed essential functional need of the patient
- be designed to meet the requirements of persons with a health need or disability and not widely used by persons without an illness or disability.

3.3 Charges/fees

As per the [WA Health Fees and Charges Manual](#), the following patients must not be charged for the provision of assistive technology and home modifications:

- admitted patients
- non-admitted patients.

Retrospective funding or reimbursement must not be provided to patients, carers or a third party for assistive technology and home modifications purchased, hired or undertaken privately.

4. Compliance Monitoring

The Chief Allied Health Office, on behalf of the System Manager, will monitor compliance with this policy. HSPs must report annually, for the period 1 July to 30 June, using the [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modification Annual Reporting Form](#) by 14 August. Reporting must include HSP procedures implemented in accordance with the [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Procedural Requirements](#).

The System Manager can also request additional information, including data and documents associated with local procedures to ensure alignment with policy requirements.

5. Related Documents

The following documents are mandatory pursuant to this policy:

- [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Procedural Requirements](#)
- [Supply of Patient Aids and Appliances to Western Australian Health Service Providers Contract HSS103218](#)
- [Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modification Annual Reporting Form](#)

6. Supporting Information

The following information is not mandatory but informs and/or supports the implementation of this policy:

- [Assistive Technology Categories – example inclusions](#)
- [Disposal Guideline](#)

7. Definitions

The following definition(s) are relevant to this policy.

Term	Definition
Admitted patient	A patient who receives inpatient care as defined in the Admitted Patient Activity Data Business Rules .
Assistive technology	Assistive technology refers to any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual.
Basic	The most cost-effective option or the simplest solution required to address the clinical need whilst taking safety and standards into account.
Consumable items	Single use items such as wound care dressings and other items, bandages, needles, syringes, items for monitors or devices and which are not covered under other categories.
Continence aids	Products and/or items which assist a person to manage bladder or bowel incontinence.
Domestic use	For use-in the home and community environment. Assistive technology may be issued for trial and/or use in hospital prior to discharge.
Employee	For the purposes of this policy, employee means – (a) an employee in a Health Service Provider and includes: (i) the chief executive of the Health Service Provider; (ii) a health executive employed in the Health Service Provider; (iii) a person employed in the Health Service Provider under section 140 of the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i> ; (iv) a person seconded to the Health Service Provider under section 136 or 142 of the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i> ; (b) a person engaged under a contract for services by a Health Service Provider.
Essential	The minimum required to address the functional needs of the patient within their home.
Footwear	Standard, specialised or customised shoes, shoe modifications or shoe inserts.
Home modification	Includes: Home installations - Items that generally require to be fixed in place to a wall, floor or other surface Structural modifications - Structural changes to the layout or fixtures of a home.

Implantable devices	Items implanted with the intention to either reconstruct facial or body contours which have been damaged by trauma or disease or to correct a deformity which has been pathologically caused.
Medical/biomedical equipment	Items which are used to deliver medical or therapeutic treatment, or support physiological functions, such as nebulisers, ventilators, CPAP machines, renal dialysis machines, electrical stimulation and ultrasound.
Non-admitted patient	As defined in the Non-Admitted-Patient-Activity-Data-Business-Rules.pdf .
Orthoses	An externally applied device used to modify the structural and/or functional characteristics of the neuromuscular skeletal systems, such as splints, braces, callipers, supports and compression garments. May be off-the shelf or customised.
Prostheses	An item that replaces or partially replaces a body part. It may or may not require surgical implantation. Examples include joint prostheses, artificial limbs, eye prosthesis, ear prosthesis, breast prosthesis and wigs. May be off-the-shelf or customised.
Provision	In the context of the policy, provision of assistive technology refers to issuing an item/s on loan. The length of loan is determined by the Health Service Provider as per Mandatory Procedural Requirements section 3.4. Non-returnable assistive technology and home modifications are provided on a permanent basis and do not need to be returned, as per Mandatory Procedural Requirements section 3.4.
Recently admitted public patient, or non-admitted public patient	A public patient within the period 3 months from the conclusion of their last relevant episode of care.

8. Policy Contact

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Chief Allied Health Officer

Directorate: Clinical Excellence

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9. Document Control

Version	Published date	Review date	Amendment(s)
MP 0168/21	12 August 2021	August 2024	Original version
MP 0168/25 v.1.0	5 October 2026	October 2029	Policy review and amendments, details below.
• Applicability section updated to reflect standard wording on contracted health entities. • Policy requirements revised to clarify eligibility criteria and recovery of costs from another service or program. Inclusion that HSPs must procure assistive technology and home modifications through a specific contract for required listed items. • Compliance monitoring updated for the policy owner's responsibility to conduct compliance monitoring and to align with mandatory policy requirements. • Related document: Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Procedural Requirements revised and updated. Inclusion of Provision of Assistive Technology and Home Modification Annual Reporting Form. • Supporting information: Assistive Technology Categories – example inclusions revised and updated. Inclusion of Disposal Guideline website. • Definitions for assistive technology, continence aids, domestic use and staff member updated.			

Note: Mandatory policies that exceed the scheduled review date will continue to remain in effect.

10. Approval

Approval by	Nicole O'Keefe, Assistant Director General, Strategy and Governance, Department of Health
Approval date	12 August 2021

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