

15th October 2019

Podiatrists are the experts in assessing diagnosing and treating conditions of the foot and lower limb.

There has been a recent spate of concerns regarding podiatric conditions being treated by unqualified providers of orthotics and orthoses products in retail settings. There are many products available at outlets, however when purchasing such products, you are highly likely buying a product from someone who does not necessarily have the expertise to determine if the product will assist you with your particular concern.

Podiatrist are the experts in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the foot and lower limb. Podiatrists hold a university degree and are AHPRA registered health professionals. Podiatrists are the most qualified professionals to advise on the most appropriate treatment for conditions affecting your feet. Foot orthoses (orthotics) are one of a number of treatment options for a wide range of conditions affecting your feet. The Australian Podiatry Association recommends you consult a podiatrist to determine if orthotics are the best treatment for your particular condition.

Podiatrist will usually develop and provide a treatment plan which may or may not include orthotic therapy. Podiatrists are the only health professionals whose treatment may be eligible receive a private health fund rebate for the prescription of foot orthotics.

Patients with podiatric conditions are exposing themselves to risks by allowing these conditions to be treated by unqualified suppliers of orthotics. Whilst these retail outlets can offer such orthotics, patients need to be reminded that staff at these outlets are often not trained to treat foot problems and should be prohibited from doing so.

The Australian Podiatry Association is firm in its stance that registered podiatrists are qualified to prevent, diagnose and treat conditions of the foot and lower limb. Podiatrists are foot experts and are the professionals that should be delivering care to patients with foot problems.