

**MARKET SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM**

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**Report of the Market Supplement Review  
Committee**

**Orthotist and Prosthetist**

**October 15, 2006**

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Market Supplement Program is to ensure that Saskatchewan health care employers can attract and retain the employees required to provide appropriate health care services to the people of Saskatchewan.

This program is designed to address specific skill shortages by use of a temporary market supplement to attract and/or retain qualified employees. The program is designed to ensure that temporary market supplements respond to valid labour market criteria to address recruitment/retention pressures.

## OVERVIEW

The Market Supplement Review Committee (MSRC) reviewed updated documentation submitted in the annual review process regarding the market supplement for the Prosthetist and Orthotist classifications. These two classifications received a market supplement as part of the SAHO/HSAS bargaining process in the fall of 2002. The Prosthetist and Orthotist classifications had annual reviews in 2003, 2004, 2005 and now 2006. The decision each time was to maintain the existing market supplement. This latest report is to be considered as part of the on-going review of the market supplement process for this classification as described in the SAHO/HSAS Letters of Understanding pertaining to the Market Supplement Program.

There was one health region that reported to this review. Other regions use agencies such as the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. Prosthetists and Orthotists are members of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS).

Role of a Prosthetist:

*Prosthetists help those who have physical limitations, by designing, constructing and fitting artificial limbs.*

*A Prosthetist works closely with doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others in rehabilitation medicine. After assessing the needs of a patient, the Prosthetist may fabricate the support personally, or may develop specifications for its construction by a technician. The device is then fitted and adjusted to the patient. From time to time, repairs and maintenance work must also be done.*

*Prosthetists work in either rehabilitation centres or private practice.*

Qualifications:

*Prosthetists are graduates of a two year course and must be certified by the Canadian Board of Certification for Prosthetists and Orthotists. After twenty two months of work experience under the guidance of a certified Prosthetist, graduates write the National Certification exam of the Canadian Board of Certification for Prosthetists and Orthotists.*

Role of an Orthotist:

*Orthotists help those who have physical limitations by designing, constructing and fitting orthopedic braces and supports.*

*Orthotists work closely with doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others in rehabilitation medicine. After assessing the needs of a patient, the Orthotist may fabricate the support personally, or may develop specifications for its construction by a technician. The device is then fitted and adjusted to the patient. From time to time, repairs and maintenance work must also be done.*

*Orthotists work in either rehabilitation centres or private practice.*

Qualifications:

*Orthotists and Prosthetists are graduates of a two year course and must be certified by the Canadian Board of Certification for Prosthetists and Orthotists. After twenty two months of work experience under the guidance of a certified Orthotist or Prosthetist, graduates write the National Certification exam of the Canadian Board of Certification for Prosthetists and Orthotists.*

In Canada, there are three schools of Orthotics and Prosthetics i.e. British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), in Burnaby, B.C., George Brown College, in Toronto, Ontario, and College Montmorency, in Laval, Quebec. Three western provinces i.e. B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan, jointly fund the Orthotist and Prosthetist program at BCIT. BCIT accepts ten applications every second year to the program. Applications are accepted on a pro-rated basis from each of these three provinces.

Information regarding budgeted positions and vacancies is provided in the following table:

**Table 1a) Prosthetists – Budgeted and Vacant Positions (August 2006)**

Health Regions	Number of Budgeted Positions (As of August, 2006)		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions (As of August, 2006)		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Regina Qu'Appelle	3	0	1	0	33%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Table 1b) Orthotists – Budgeted and Vacant Positions (August 2006)**

Health Regions	Number of Budgeted Positions (As of August, 2006)		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions (As of August, 2006)		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Regina Qu'Appelle	3	0	2	0	66%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*At the time of this report one vacancy has been filled, leaving one vacant full time Orthotist position.

## ANALYSIS

The MSRC discussed the Labour Market Criteria as guided by the Market Supplement Program framework.

**SERVICE DELIVERY IMPACTS:** *(Employers were asked to provide information that addresses current service delivery impacts resulting from staff shortages, potential staff short term service delivery impacts, potential long term service delivery impacts and options for alternative service delivery models).*

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region reported service delivery issues for Prosthetists and Orthotists due to recruitment and retention issues. Both classifications have experienced vacancies that have created service delivery issues.

**VACANCY RATE ANALYSIS:** *(Employers were requested to provide information about the frequency and timing of vacancy occurrences {i.e., seasonal vacancies; do the vacancies always follow an event; etc.} and to identify trends that may affect recruitment/retention efforts).*

There is currently one vacant Prosthetists position and two vacant Orthotist positions.

One Prosthetist recently resigned to work in private practice.

**Table 2a) Prosthetists – Budgeted and Vacant Position Comparison (2002 – 2006)**

Prosthetist Classification	Number of Budgeted Positions		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
<b>2003 Totals</b>	3	0	1	0	33%	0%
<b>2004 Totals</b>	3	0	0	0	0%	0%
<b>2005 Totals</b>	3	0	0	0	0%	0%
<b>2006 Totals</b>	3	0	1	0	33%	0%

**Table 2b) Orthotists – Budgeted and Vacant Position Comparison (2002 – 2006)**

Orthotist Classification	Number of Budgeted Positions		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
<b>2003 Totals</b>	3	0	1	0	33%	0%
<b>2004 Totals</b>	3	0	1	0	33%	0%
<b>2005 Totals</b>	3	0	1	0	33%	0%
<b>2006 Totals</b>	3	0	2	0	66%	0%

**TURNOVER RATES:** *(Employers were asked to provide local analysis of reasons for leaving and trends that may be emerging. They were also asked to provide annual turnover loss of employees to other competitor employers} ratio to the existing staff complement {budgeted positions} in the given occupation.)*

In 2006 (year to date), there has been one staff turnover for Prosthetists and one staff turnover for Orthotists.

**RECRUITMENT ISSUE ANALYSIS:** *(Employers were asked to provide information such as length of recruitment times, training investments, licensing issues, supply and demand issues, etc., as well as information that would identify trends that may affect recruitment and/or retention efforts)*

Recruitment and retention initiatives that have been reported include:

- Advertising (i.e. internet, trade journals),
- Offering a higher initial rate of pay than the first step,
- Career fairs,
- Recruitment allowances,
- Relocation,
- Offering clinical internships and,

The Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region report one Orthotist intern, and two Prosthetist interns working at the region.

**SALARY MARKET CONDITIONS:** *(Employers were asked to identify situations where their salary levels are lower than other employers that they would expect to recruit employees from or other employers that recruit their employees. This may be local, provincial, regional, national or international depending on the occupation group and traditional recruitment relationships. Cost of living considerations may or may not be appropriate to factor into market salary comparisons)*

The MSRC reports the following market conditions for Prosthetists and Orthotists:

- Saskatchewan health regions – Minimum \$28.164/hour, maximum \$34.950/hour, 6 steps. Effective April 1, 2006. The Orthotist and Prosthetist classifications are at the same pay level.
- Alberta health regions – Minimum \$30.24/hour, maximum \$40.26/hour, 9 steps. Effective April 1, 2006.
- British Columbia health regions – Minimum \$24.99/hour, maximum \$31.16/hour, 6 steps. Effective April 1, 2006.
- Manitoba health regions – Minimum \$25.887/hour, maximum \$34.104/hour, 8 steps. Effective April 1, 2005.

## **CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Considering the labour market criteria under the provincial framework, the Market Supplement Review Committee makes the following conclusions:

- The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region reports significant service delivery issues and vacancy issues for the Prosthetist and Orthotist classifications.
- There continues to be a limited supply of Prosthetists and Orthotists in Canada. There are only three schools in Canada that graduate candidates to this profession.
- Vacancies are difficult to recruit for.

Having reviewed the employer information and considering the labour market criteria defined by the market supplement framework, the Market Supplement Review Committee recommends:

- To renegotiate the market supplement rates of pay for the Prosthetist and Orthotist classifications.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Market Supplement Consideration Request – Prosthetist and Prosthetist**

#### Respondent

1. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region