

MARKET SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

**Report of the Market Supplement Review
Committee**

Prosthetist (HSAS)

Final

**Report Due Date: December 13, 2024
(Annual Review)**

Report Distribution Date: December 2024

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Market Supplement Program is to ensure that the Saskatchewan healthcare 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.

A market supplement will be an acceptable option only if:

- a) Workplace initiatives have not addressed the skill shortage;
- b) Labour market data supports a supplement; and,
- c) Recruitment/retention is a problem, is affecting service delivery, and is well documented.

OVERVIEW

The Market Supplement Review Committee (MSRC) reviewed updated documentation submitted in the annual review process regarding the market supplement for the Prosthetist classification. The first market supplement report was released by the Market Supplement Review Committee in the fall of 2002.

Prosthetists are members of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS). HSAS and SAHO are parties to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with a term of April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2024. The Provincial Market Supplement Program language can be found in Letter of Understanding #12 – Provincial Market Supplement Program and Letter of Understanding #13 – Determination of Market Supplement Rates, on pages 168 and 170 of the SAHO/HSAS CBA.

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.

Qualifications:

*Graduate of an accredited orthotics prosthetics program recognized by Orthotics, Prosthetics Canada (OPC)
Eligibility or current registration with Orthotics, Prosthetics Canada (OPC)*

ANALYSIS

The MSRC discussed the Labour Market Criteria as required by the Market Supplement Program. There was one larger urban centre, Regina that reported to this review. Other facilities and areas in the Saskatchewan Health Authority may use agencies, such as the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, to provide service for this function. Prosthetists are members of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS).

VACANCY RATE ANALYSIS: *(Respondents 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.)*

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

Table 1 – Prosthetists

Number of Budgeted Positions (As of November 2024)		Number of Vacant Positions (As of November 2024)		% Vacancy	
Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
4	0	1	0	25%	0%

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPACTS: *(Respondents 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 current service delivery impact is characterized as significant in that the department can only provide a basic level of service. There may be significant gaps in service and service problems persist.

Other strategies to address service delivery challenges include:

- Referrals are reviewed and assigned a priority.
- Provide clients the choice to seek service potentially sooner from Abilities Council in Saskatoon.
- Utilization of overtime to support additional hours.
- Acquisition of new technology to decrease clinician time in the shape capture and modifying stage of manufacture.

TURNOVER RATES: *(Respondents 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.)*

There has been no turnover in the last 12 months and they have gained 1 PFT prosthetist and 1 prosthetic resident.

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

Recruitment for this classification is characterized as significant meaning that qualified professionals are in high demand. Educational institutions are not graduating enough students to provide the workforce sufficient supply.

Recruitment and retention initiatives include the following:

- Communication with Directors of both schools to relay job opportunities and willingness to take student placements in Saskatchewan.
- Advertising on Canadian websites.
- Offering of recruitment incentives.
- Offering of relocation incentives.
- Payment of the cost associated with writing licensing exams.
- Supporting clinical placements during their 2 year program.
- Supervision and mentorship support.

SALARY MARKET CONDITIONS: *(Respondents 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 comparison.)*

The MSRC reports the following market conditions for Prosthetists.

Table 2 – Prosthetist – Certified Salary Market Conditions

Province	Job Title	Effective Date	Maximum Rate of Pay (April 1, 2023)
British Columbia	Prothetist - Grade I	April 1, 2023	\$44.23
Alberta	Certified Prosthetist	April 1, 2023	\$56.80
Saskatchewan	Prosthetist - Certified	April 1, 2023	\$52.774
Manitoba	No Match		
Western Canadian Average (2023)			\$51.268

Saskatchewan Rate	\$ 52.774
Western Canadian Average	\$ 51.268
Sask compared to Average (\$)	\$ 1.51
Sask compared to Average (%)	102.94%

Note: Saskatchewan rates are above the Western Canadian Average

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- There is one vacancy in this classification and the employer has been able to recruit one position and one resident position this past year.
- There has been no turnover in this classification in the past 12 months.
- There are no schools in Saskatchewan that provide education for this classification.
- Saskatchewan's wage rates are higher than the western Canadian average.

Having reviewed the employer information and considering the labour market criteria defined by the market supplement framework, the Market Supplement Review Committee has determined that the current market supplement for the Prosthetist classifications should be **maintained**.