

On qualifying Prosthetists/Orthotists chose which specialty to practice in but our core skill sets are the same.

Prosthetists provide gait analysis and engineering solutions to patients with limb absence. Orthotists assess, diagnose and treat gait abnormalities and functional loss using multiple interventions for people of all ages with problems of the neuro, muscular and skeletal systems. Prosthetist/orthotists are leaders in rehabilitation teams focussing on improving function for people of all ages enabling people to mobilise, eliminate gait deviations, reduce falls, reduce pain, prevent and facilitate healing of ulcers.

Orthotists working within acute ward based and rehabilitation, emergency depts, and primary care have a specialised skill set and will see unprecedented demand. We do not envisage redeploying any staff away from these services. An emergency repair service will be required for all prosthetic and orthotic services and will require core staffing.

Orthotists who work alongside AHP colleagues embedded in Stroke, Vascular and Diabetic foot teams will also need to continue to provide essential services to prevent admission and facilitate discharge. Advanced practitioners may be required to lead services to enable other staff to be redeployed.

Orthotists work in community services that are being transitioned down e.g. musculoskeletal services and general outpatient setting Orthotists are able to run and deliver these services through telehealth care during this time of crisis management.

As the experts at applying orthoses to the body our profession can easily be redeployed with minimal support to areas with staff shortages such as within fracture and trauma clinics. Orthotists are also experts in position management and pressure relief and can be utilised to support tissue viability services to prevent and treat ulceration. Gait assessment is core to our skill set and as such Prosthetist/orthotists can provide rehabilitation and gait re-education alongside the established rehab MDT. With support, clinicians can be used to facilitate discharge and assist in positioning.

Our highly skilled technician staff have the technical skills to support estates and maintain equipment. They can be utilised to make PPE with guidance from Infection Control Depts. or upskilled to support critical care with maintenance of equipment.

While our clinical assistants can utilise their caring skills and moving and handling knowledge to support registered staff to prevent admissions and facilitate discharge.