

Information Sheet SP32

Information for service providers working with Lifetime Care or the Workers Care Program



Guidelines for Prescribers - Assistive Technology

icare requires that prescribers of Assistive Technology (AT) meet the necessary qualifications and levels of experience as detailed below.

1. Principles of Equipment Prescription

1.1. icare encourages the use of a person-centred approach to all assessments and AT prescriptions. It is assumed that prior to approaching icare, the prescriber has undertaken a person-centred assessment where the outcome recommends the AT is likely to assist in optimising the person's outcomes and builds the person's capacity.

2. Professional criteria for prescribers

- 2.1. Clinicians must have the stipulated professional qualification to prescribe different types of assistive technology as detailed in <u>"Table 2: Equipment and Professional Criteria" on page 4.</u>
- 2.2. Prescription of Group 1 Assistive Technology only requires that the prescriber has the stipulated qualification. Prescription of Group 2 and Group 3 Assistive Technology also requires the clinician to have **relevant experience** (see Table 1). Relevant experience is defined as:
 - the amount of experience (in years) a clinician has in the prescription of the AT
 - the number of prescriptions previously completed in that AT group and category.

Table 1: Assistive Technology Groups

Group	Equipment Complexity and Usage Frequency	Prescriber Requirements
1	 simple to set-up and use not custom-made frequently prescribed; and stands alone and is not integrated with other equipment. 	• stipulated qualification only
2	 complex to set-up and requires training to use safely; or potential adverse outcome for a client / carer / attendant care worker if not prescribed or used appropriately; or custom-made; or infrequently prescribed; or integrated or interfaces with other equipment. 	 stipulated qualification AND >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions under supervision for group 2 equipment in that category

Group	Equipment Complexity and Usage Frequency	Prescriber Requirements
3	 consists of several component pieces of equipment that must integrate to achieve the goal for the client; or due to the risk to the client the skills of a multidisciplinary team is required to prescribe accurately. 	 stipulated qualification AND >3 years of experience AND 5 previous prescriptions under supervision for group 3 equipment in that category AND prescriber plus endorsement by one or more members of the specialist multi-disciplinary team

- 2.3. Prescribers are asked to complete a Declaration on the FSP007 Equipment Request Form (ERF) to confirm that they meet the professional criteria.
- 2.4. These requirements do not replace
 - the need to document the clinical assessment and clinical reasoning underlying equipment prescription.
 - the need for clinical supervision in the workplace, particularly where the clinician is a new graduate or new to the field of practice

3. Easy Order

3.1. Items ordered under Easy Order must be prescribed by the stipulated prescriber under the relevant sections of this document. For more information please refer to Easy Order information on the website: go to www.icare.nsw.gov.au > practitioners and providers > healthcare and service providers > equipment and maintenance.

4. Group 1 Equipment and Complex Clients

4.1. At times, Group 1 equipment may be prescribed for a client with a complex condition, such as significant neurological impairment, or spinal cord injury. Although qualification alone is required in this instance, inexperienced clinicians should still seek or use additional clinical supervision to ensure the prescription is correct.

5. Inexperienced Prescribers Prescribing under Supervision

5.1. Prescribers who do not meet the professional criteria, may prescribe under the supervision of a clinician who is an eligible prescriber for that equipment. The prescriber will be the point of contact if there is any additional information required.

The format and level of supervision provided by the supervisor remains the responsibility of the clinical service to determine. It is recommended that the supervisor sights the ERF before it is submitted.

6. Approved Prescribers

6.1. Services that operate under a transdisciplinary model or do not have access to health professionals representing several disciplines in a single location, may undertake education programs to train health professionals to prescribe group 1 equipment for non-complex clients. In these circumstances, the trained clinicians can also become Approved Prescribers.

For example, an Aged Care Team operating under a transdisciplinary model may provide education to occupational therapists and nurses so that the occupational therapists and nurses can prescribe Group 1 walking aids, or education to physiotherapists so that the physiotherapists can prescribe Group 1 showering and bathing equipment.

7. Lack of Eligible Prescribers

7.1. In circumstances where a client's access to equipment may be compromised due to a lack of eligible prescribers (for example in rural or remote areas), icare may make exceptions for individuals without the stipulated qualifications, who have highly specialised skills in a particular clinical area depending on the participant circumstances. The treating health team should liaise with icare to discuss options to address this problem.

8. Eligible Prescribers Employed by Assistive Technology Suppliers

- 8.1. All prescribers must comply with the principle that the prescription of equipment must be removed from the supply/provision of the equipment, in order to eliminate and prevent any perceived or actual conflict of interest.
- 8.2. Equipment requests cannot be submitted by professionals working for suppliers, nor can they provide the supervision for equipment prescription.

Glossary/Definitions

Role Abbreviation	Role Full Title
AT	Assistive Technology
CNC	Clinical Nurse Consultant
CNS	Clinical Nurse Specialist
ENT	Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist
ОТ	Occupational Therapist
PT	Physiotherapist
RN	Registered Nurse
SP	Speech Pathologist
sw	Social Worker

Table 2: Equipment and Professional Criteria

Select a link below to quickly go to relevant equipment category:

- 4 Activities of Daily Living Equipment
- 7 Mobility Equipment
- 8 Seating Systems
- 8 Alternative Positioning
- 9 Transfer Equipment
- 9 Orthoses, Prosthetics and Footwear
- 12 Pressure care and Compression garments
- 12 Communication and Technology Equipment
- 15 Home Automation, Disability-specific environmental control units, and Smart Home Technology
- 15 Respiratory Equipment
- 17 Sexual health and wellbeing assistive technology

Activities of Daily Living Equipment

Group	Activities of Daily Living Equipment	Qualifications
Beds an	d bed accessories	
1	 height adjustable over bed tables over-bed and Self-help poles bed accessories items that fit Easyorder criteria 	OT, RN, PT
2	 electric bed night positioning systems bed poles/sticks bed rails 	 OT, PT with 1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category Note: Bed poles and sticks have been associated with injury and death when inappropriately prescribed. Fixed bed rails, over-bed poles and self-help poles are lower risk and preferred options.
3	custom molded night positioning systems	 OT, PT with 3 years of experience AND 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category AND input from multi-disciplinary team

Group	Activities of Daily Living Equipment	Qualifications	
Chairs a	Chairs and chair equipment		
1	high and low back chairs, including bariatric	OT, RN, PT	
2	electric lift chair	 OT, PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Eating a	and drinking equipment		
1	Adaptive cutleryDysphagia cupsItems that fit Easyorder criteria	OT, SP	
2	 Alternate feeding systems for management of upper limb function e.g. iEAT feeding system, Obi Feeding Device Alternate feeding and drinking systems for management of swallowing issues e.g. RoseCup 	OT with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category SP with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category AND • OT input where positioning needs to be considered	
Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN)			
2	 enteral nutrition devices including nasogastric, replacement gastrostomy tubes and low-profile devices pumps giving sets and consumables for enteral feeding including extension tubes and dispensers/syringes 	 Dietician, CNC, CNS, Nurse Practitioner or RN with >1 year of experience in enteral feeding management AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	

Group	Activities of Daily Living Equipment	Qualifications	
Showeri	Showering and bathing equipment		
1	 bath & shower equipment bath transfer bench swivel bather mobile shower commode items that fit Easyorder criteria 	ОТ	
2	 pressure care showering and bathing equipment customised or tilt-in-space shower commode 	 OT with 1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Toileting	g equipment		
1	 toileting aids & frames bed side commode mobile shower commode items that fit Easyorder criteria 	OT or RN	
2	 pressure care toileting equipment customised mobile shower commode 	 OT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Contine	nce		
2	Disposable and non-disposable products – annual supplies apply	 Continence Advisor/Nurse; CNC; CNS; Nurse Practitioner; or RN with accredited continence or relevant specialist course OR RN with >1 year of experience in continence management and 3 previous supervised prescriptions. OR RN who has received education programs and/or supervision from their clinical service and is approved to prescribe the continence product/s being requested. OR Doctors and other allied health professionals may prescribe in certain circumstances. Please contact the Equipment Team to discuss. 	

Group	Mobility Equipment	Qualifications	
Walking	Walking aids		
1	crutcheswalking stickswalking framesforearm support frames	PT, OT	
2	specialised walker	 PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Wheelcl	nairs		
1	non-customised wheelchairstransit wheelchairs	OT, PT	
2	 power wheelchair tilt-in-space manual and power wheelchairs custom-made lightweight wheelchairs wheelchairs with power assist wheels specialised strollers 	 OT, PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
3	 wheelchairs with ventilators or respiratory support equipment power wheelchairs with integrated controls e.g. ECU; computers; wheelchairs with complex controls e.g. head array, scanning controls etc. 	OT, PT with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category AND • multi-disciplinary team input	
Scooters			
2	powered mobility scooters	 OT, PT with >1 year experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category AND completion of a scooter driving assessment and medical clearance is also required. 	

Seating Systems

Group	Seating Systems	Qualifications
2	 custom-made foam on ply seating commercially available seating e.g. backrest, headrest and cushions positioning devices e.g. harnesses, lateral supports specialised car seats, harnesses and postural supports 	OT, PT with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category
3	custom-made moulded postural supports	OT, PT with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category AND • multi-disciplinary team input.

Alternative Positioning

Group	Alternative Positioning	Qualifications
2	standing frames	 PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category.
2	seating that is independent of mobility device (e.g. waterchair, children's seating)	 OT, PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category.
3	custom-made positioning device that is independent of a mobility device.	 OT, PT with >3 years of experience AND 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category.

Transfer Equipment

Group	Transfer Equipment	Qualifications	
Transfer	Transfer equipment		
1	 transfer boards and discs slide sheets transfer and walking belts bed/chair raisers 	OT, PT	
2	 mobile hoist ceiling hoist sling for hoists standing pivot transfer aid standing hoist 	 OT, PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Vehicle	transfer devices		
1	slide boardturntableportable rampgrab handles	OT, PT	
2	wheelchair hoist	 OT, PT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category. 	

Orthoses, Prosthetics and Footwear

Group	Orthoses, Prosthetics and Footwear	Qualifications	
Axial (s	Axial (spinal and head) orthoses		
2	rigid collarshelmet	Orthotist, PT, RN, Medical Specialist with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category	
3	thoracic lumbosacral orthoseslumbosacral orthoses	Medical Specialist and Orthotist with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category	

Group	Orthoses, Prosthetics and Footwear	Qualifications	
Upper e	Upper extremity orthoses		
2	dynamic upper limb orthoses	OT, PT, Orthotist, Medical Specialist with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category	
3	 power assisted wrist hand orthoses flail arm orthoses 	OT, Orthotist, PT, Medical Specialist with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category AND • Multi-disciplinary team input	
Speciali	sed footwear		
1	 footwear modifications to regular off-the-shelf shoes off-the shelf innersole 	Orthotist, Pedorthist, PT, Podiatrist, Medical Specialist	
2	medical grade footwear	 Medical specialist, Podiatrist and Pedorthist with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
3	Custom made medical grade footwear	Podiatrist, Pedorthist, Medical Specialist with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment AND • Medical Specialist input	
Below knee orthoses			
1	off the shelf lower limb orthoses	PT, Medical Specialist, Orthotist, Pedorthist, Podiatrist	
2	 custom ankle foot orthoses dynamic ankle foot orthoses custom foot orthoses patella Tendon Bearing (PTB) orthoses basic knee ankle foot orthoses 	Medical Specialist, Orthotist, Pedorthist, PT, Podiatrist with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category	

Group	Orthoses, Prosthetics and Footwear	Qualifications		
Complex walking orthoses				
3	 reciprocal gait orthoses (RGO) hip guidance orthoses (HGO) twister cables with AFO complex lower-limb walking orthoses (KAFO's) 	 Medical Specialist and Orthotist or PT with >3 years of experience AND 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category 		
3	Advanced Technology / Robotic walking devices	Medical Specialist and PT with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category		
Prosthet	Prosthetic Limbs			
2	body powered upper limbsnon-powered lower limbs	Prosthetist with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category		
3	 myoelectric/bionic upper limbs/hands microprocessor knees 	Medical specialist, OT (for upper limb) and Prosthetist with • >3 years of experience AND • 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category		
Other Prostheses				
Wig		Confirmation from a health professional that it is required for injury-related reasons.		

Pressure care and Compression garments

Group	Pressure care and Compression garments	Qualifications
Cushion	s, mattress replacement systems & ove	rlays
1	*clients at low risk of pressure injury as assessed by an allied health professional* • foam cushions / mattresses • foam overlays	OT, RN, PT
2	*clients at medium to high risk of pressure injury as assessed by an allied health professional* • air-flotation cushions / mattresses • gel pads / gel style cushions • alternating air cushions/ mattresses • low air-loss • foam mattresses • foam overlays	OT, PT, RN with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category
Compression Garments		
1	Off the shelf compression garments	OT, PT, RN or specialist medical officer with • level 1 training (Lymphoedema Training Course,
2	Custom made compression garments	Australasian Lymphology Association).

Communication and Technology Equipment

Group	Communication and Technology Equipment	Qualifications
Alaryngeal communication devices		
1	voice amplifiers	SP
2	voice prosthesestracheostomy speaking valveselectrolarynxes	 SP with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category

Group	Communication and Technology Equipment	Qualifications	
Devices	Devices for cognitive impairment		
1	 Orientation clocks Prompting devices e.g. TabTimer Memory aids Planning and organisational aids (e.g. whiteboards, devices) Simple personal safety devices (e.g. vitalcall) 	SP, OT, Neuropsychology	
2	 Personal safety devices (e.g. personal alarm devices with falls detectors, location monitoring etc.) Products that require more extensive setup and integration with other systems 	 SP, OT, Neuropsychology with 1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Augmer	ntative and alternative communication	devices	
1	single message devicessingle level devices	SP	
2	multi-level devicesdynamic display devicesspelling based devices	 SP with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
3	 group 2 devices with complex access requirements e.g. eye gaze, head control or switch scanning. group 2 devices to be integrated with complex seating systems and/or complex mounting requirements group 2 devices to be integrated with computer access or environmental control technology/home automation 	 SP with >3 years of experience AND 5 previous group 3 prescriptions AND input from an OT 	

Group	Communication and Technology Equipment	Qualifications		
Hearing	devices, assistive listening devices and	d alarms		
1	alternate alerts and alarms (e.g. shake awake, strobe, vibrating)	Audiologist, Audiometrist, or OT		
2	 non-surgical hearing devices bone conduction aids (non-implantable type); earplugs (custom noise/swim/musician plugs); FM and other remote sensing systems; hearing aids; and/or hearing assistive technology 	Audiologist, or Audiometrist with qualifications in the prescription of hearing devices (Adults only)		
Alternate access to print information				
1	handheld magnifier	Orthoptist, OT		
2	 desk top magnifier digital playback devices CCTV braillers talking blood pressure/blood glucose monitors screen filters 	Orthoptist, OT with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category		
Assistive	Assistive technology access and accessories			
2	 mounting equipment alternate access (specialised keyboard, mouse, switches) specialised software 	 SP, OT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category AND OT consultation for prescriptions involving wheelchair mounting 		

Home Automation, Disability-specific environmental control units, and Smart Home Technology

Group	Home Automation, Disability- specific environmental control units, and Smart Home Technology	Qualifications
2	 off-the shelf, single function 'smart home' devices (do not require integration with other devices via a centralised control system, and/or do not require customised user interface) disability-specific environmental control units i.e HouseMate motorised door with customised and/or modified access requirements 	 OT with >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category
3	 home automation system with multiple unique components, integrated and managed via a centralised control system and customised user interface. group 2 devices with complex and/or indirect access requirements e.g. eye gaze, alternative mouse input, or switch scanning. group 2 devices, motorised doors, and other equipment to be integrated with a home automation system e.g. z-wave, HomeKit, etc. 	 OT with >3 years of experience AND 5 previous prescriptions for group 3 equipment in this category Input from specialist technician / electrician / home automation supplier with disability installation experience SP and/or OT input re integration for those with complex and/or indirect access or mounting requirements

Respiratory Equipment

Group	Respiratory Equipment	Qualifications	
Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)			
1	CPAPBiPAPhumidification	Qualified Sleep Medicine Practitioner, Respiratory Physician, or Respiratory PT	
Oxygen Therapy			
1	oxygen concentrator deviceback up/portable cylinders (special circumstances)nasal prongs	Paediatrics and Adults: Respiratory or Palliative Care physicians	

Group	Respiratory Equipment	Qualifications	
Noctur	Nocturnal Ventilation (for clients diagnosed with Obesity Hypoventilation)		
1	ventilatorhumidification	Qualified Sleep Medicine Practitioner or Respiratory Physician	
Noctur	nal Ventilation (for clients diagnosed wi	th other respiratory failure disorder)	
3	ventilatorhumidificationbatteries and battery chargers for ventilators	Specialist physician in Respiratory Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Spinal Cord Injuries & Intensive Care (in Consultation with the multidisciplinary care team- e.g. CNC, SP, CNS, PT, and Biomedical Engineer)	
Suction	Units and Respiratory Consumables fo	r Secretion Management	
1	Manual cough assist devices	PT, Medical Specialist	
2	Cough assist machine	PT, Medical Specialist with • >1 year of experience AND • 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category	
3	 suction Units - high pressure, portable suction Unit - manual (special circumstances) humidifier unit (electrical) ventilator circuits heat Moisture Exchange (HME) tracheostomy tubes and related consumables laryngectomy tubes and related consumables 	Specialist physician in Respiratory Medicine, Rehabilitation, ENT, Palliative Care, Sleep, Spinal Cord Injury Unit & Intensive Care (in consultation with the multidisciplinary care team - e.g. CNC, SP, CNS, Biomedical Engineers and PT)	
Continuous Ventilation			
3	 ventilator humidification circuits external Monitoring Systems batteries and battery chargers for ventilators 	Specialist physician in Respiratory Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Spinal Cord Injury Unit & Intensive Care (in Consultation with the multidisciplinary care team – e.g. CNC, SP, CNS, PT, Biomedical Engineer)	

Sexual health and wellbeing assistive technology

Group	Sexual health and wellbeing assistive technology	Qualifications	
1	 non-medical sexual wellbeing devices (external and internal) e.g. vibrator, stimulators, vibrating penis ring* off the shelf, made for purpose, sexual positioning equipment e.g. wedges, harnesses, cuffs Note: trials of equipment not 	 OT, PT, RN, sex therapist / sexologist, psychologist, CNC, CNS, SW with: experience in neurological injury AND knowledge of sexual health 	
	possible in this domain		
Position	ing Equipment		
	 complex or customised positioning equipment e.g. intimate rider 	PT, OT withexperience in neurological injury and/or knowledge of sexual health	
	Note: trials of equipment not possible in this domain	 >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
		OR	
2		Sex Therapist / Sexologist, SW, Psychologist, CNC, CNS with	
		 experience in neurological injury and/or knowledge of sexual health 	
		• input from PT, OT	
		 >1 year of experience AND 	
		 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in this category 	
Sexual health devices			
2	sexual health devices for treatment of medical dysfunction e.g. viberect x3, ferticare*	Sex Therapist / Sexologist, Sexual Health medical specialist, CNC, CNS, OT with input from: • GP or Specialist	
	Note: trials of equipment not possible in this domain	 >1 year of experience AND 3 previous prescriptions for group 2 equipment in 	
		this category	

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