

Orthotists specialise in assessing and providing gait analysis and engineering solutions to service users with problems of the neuro-muscular and skeletal systems. They are trained in mechanics, bio-mechanics, and material science along with anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology.

Orthotists design and provide orthoses (splints) that modify the structural or functional characteristics of the service users' neuro-muscular and skeletal systems, helping service users to be more mobile, eliminate gait irregularities, reduce falls and pain, and prevent and facilitate the healing of ulcers.

Orthotists are also qualified to modify CE marked orthoses or the components of these. They treat service users with a wide range of conditions including diabetes, arthritis, cerebral palsy, stroke, spina bifida, scoliosis, muscular skeletal problems, sports injuries and trauma. While they work as autonomous practitioners they form part of multidisciplinary teams such as the diabetic foot team or neuro-rehabilitation team.

### **British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO)**

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