

Introducing

# Orthotic support worker



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Careers



### About the role

Orthoses are artificial or mechanical aids that provide support to a weakened part of the body. Orthotic support workers help orthotists to design, make and fit orthoses for patients, using titanium, thermoplastics or carbon fibre.

**“I love making orthotic devices to help someone and improve their daily life. I always feel proud holding something I’ve made with my own hands, knowing it will help a patient.”**

*– Orthotic support worker*

### Did you know?

Orthotics services have been available in the NHS since 1948.<sup>(1)</sup> The word orthotist comes from the Latin root ‘ortho’ which means to ‘straighten’.

### → How to pursue this role:

To apply for a job as an orthotic support worker, you’ll need a good standard of general education, including English and Maths. You can get into this career through:

1. direct application
2. a Modern Apprenticeship

### ☆ Top skills:

- design skills
- motivating people
- caring for people
- problem-solving skills
- communicating with people
- relationship-building skills

**Find out more at [www.careers.nhs.scot/hcsw](http://www.careers.nhs.scot/hcsw)**

References:

1. British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists, website accessed April 2020.