

FAQs

PAA Member Insurance Program 2023

About the program

What is the Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA) Member Insurance Program?

The PAA Member Insurance program offers members access to comprehensive insurance products and exclusive rates with our insurance partner BMS.

Why has the PAA chosen BMS as their insurance partner?

Ensuring PAA members have access to comprehensive cover, additional, evidence-based risk management material and exceptional service for insurance queries and claims is

paramount. BMS is a specialist broker dedicated to servicing associations and its members and will continue to enhance the PAA Member Insurance Program.

Can I buy insurance via BMS without a PAA membership?

No. The negotiated rates are for PAA members only. It is a requirement of the insurance policy that you hold an active membership with PAA.

Can I cancel my insurance?

You can cancel your insurance at any time. Contact BMS on **1800 940 763** or email **pedorthicaa@bmsgroup.com**

Who do I call if I have any insurance-related questions or to discuss my insurance policy?

Please contact BMS on **1800 940 763** or email **pedorthicaa@bmsgroup.com**

I already have an insurance policy elsewhere — can I apply for PAA insurance when my current one expires, outside of my membership renewal?

Yes, you can opt into the insurance program at any time.

About the products

What is Professional Indemnity (PI) Insurance?

Professional Indemnity Insurance protects you against allegations or claims of financial loss due to injury or damages that have resulted from a negligent act, error, omission, malpractice or breach of duty that has arisen out of your professional capacity as a pedorthist.

What is Public Liability Insurance?

Public Liability Insurance provides cover for bodily injury or property damage to a third party that occurs while conducting your professional activities.

This is primarily a legal defence costs cover but also covers settlement costs in the event that you are found to

be liable and/or negligent in causing the injury or property damage.

What is Products Liability?

Products Liability Insurance covers you for actual or alleged bodily injury or property damage to a third party arising through use of a product sold, supplied, or manufactured by you.

Professional Indemnity, Public & Product Liability Insurance

When can I add insurance cover to my PAA membership?

As long as your PAA membership is active, you can purchase cover at any time throughout the year. You can buy cover via the dedicated BMS website. Remember your insurance and PAA membership may not renew at the same time, so make sure you are aware of your renewal dates.

What are the major benefits of the PAA Professional Indemnity Insurance Policy?

- \$20,000,000 limit of indemnity per claim for Professional Indemnity
- \$20,000,000 limit of indemnity per claim for Public and Products Liability
- Cover is provided worldwide (excluding the USA)
- Nil Excess
- Retroactive cover for past activities (excluding known claims or circumstances)
- Run-off cover when you retire

Will this policy cover my past activities?

Yes, the Professional Indemnity and Public & Products Liability Insurance policy provides retroactive cover, provided that there are no known and unreported circumstances that may lead to a claim.

Does this policy cover me when I retire?

Yes, your policy can be put into run-off in this instance. To activate run-off, please contact BMS to advise the date your retirement will commence.

What happens if I have a leave of absence during the year?

The Professional Indemnity insurance policy is a claims made policy. This means the policy only provides cover for any prior acts as long as you have an active policy at the time of a claim.

Therefore it's important to ensure you have a policy in place should you take a leave of absence (leave where you'll likely return to work at some stage). This will ensure you're covered should a claim arise during this time.

Am I covered to work at a home practice?

Your policy does cover you to work in a home practice but there may be gaps in cover. You should also carry a home insurance policy that allows you to run a home business. You should contact your home insurance provider and ensure that the policy you hold is compatible with your business practices or contact BMS about business insurance.

Is the PAA Member Insurance Policy compliant with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)?

Yes. The PAA professional indemnity insurance policy complies with the requirements set by AHPRA.

Is the use of heat included in the Professional Indemnity Insurance policy offered by BMS?

Yes, the use of heat is included in the policy. Please refer to the Policy Wording for full details.

Should I consider this cover if I work in the Public Health Sector?

As a Public Health Sector worker, without your own insurance policy you are relying on your employer's insurance, which may be geared more towards protecting your employer. Further, Public Hospitals or Health Centres typically carry policy excesses upwards of \$250,000; which means that, in the event of a claim against you, they may decline to cover you.

Your employer's policy may not cover you for:

- Your services with previous employers.

- Your private practice work.
- Your past services rendered.
- Your services provided as a contractor, sub-contractor or consultant.
- If you are sued by your employer.
- Legal support for regulatory inquiries, disciplinary hearings and coronial enquiries.

Having your own individual policy ensures you are covered if you want to work while transitioning from one employer to the next.

I'm a student member. Am I covered?

To be covered by the PAA Member Insurance program, student members need to apply for insurance. Cover is available to students that are working within their scope of practice and are under supervision. Contact BMS on **1800 940 763** or email pedorthicaa@bmsgroup.com

Am I covered if I treat family members?

No. There is no cover when you are providing your services to family members.

Am I covered to treat patients in their home?

Yes. As long as you are working within your scope of practice, and taking all required health and safety measures, you are covered to practice Australia wide.

What other insurance products can I purchase?

If you currently hold a Professional Indemnity and Public & Products Liability policy with BMS, additional cover is available to you. This includes:

- Business Insurance
- Entity Insurance
- Cyber Liability Insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance

Additional cover may offer greater peace of mind. Speak to a BMS broker for more information.

Claims

What do I do if I have a claim or complaint made against me?

Do:

- Immediately report any potential claim to BMS
- Formally document the incident, including details of those involved
- Submit any formal statement to BMS
- Report any regulatory investigations or notice of complaint immediately
- Gather any noted and supporting documentation

Don't:

- Speak with any third parties about the claim
- Assume any legal fees before reporting a claim
- Offer compensation to independently settle a claim
- Amend or change any previous medical records once a statement of claim has been received.

If you are aware of a potential claim you should contact BMS directly.

What do I do if I have an open claim with my previous insurer?

If you have a current claim with your previous insurer, you will need to continue dealing directly with them. Any new claims or notifications under the PAA Member Insurance can be directed to BMS on **1800 940 763** or email **pedorthicaa@bmsgroup.com**

Entity Insurance

What is Entity Insurance?

Entity Insurance is professional indemnity and public liability insurance for your business. This is different to your personal insurance, or that of clinicians working in your practice. If your business is named in a legal action, these costs are not covered by your standard PAA insurance policy. This is where Entity Insurance comes in.

It is important to note that Entity Insurance does not cover clinicians for their actions while working within your clinic.

How do I add my business name onto the Policy and what coverage will be provided?

To add your business name onto your policy, you need to purchase Entity Insurance.

Speak to a BMS broker to purchase Entity Insurance by emailing **pedorthicaa@bmsgroup.com**

For more information

BMS is the official and exclusive broker for the PAA Member Insurance Program. BMS is part of the wider BMS group which is dedicated to providing cover and value-added services to associations and their members.

The BMS group provides cover to healthcare and regulated professionals across Australia, Canada, Europe and New Zealand. This experience gives BMS a unique insight and ability to create and deliver significantly enhanced and continuously evolving member centric insurance programs. This includes ensuring broad, market-leading coverage, evidence-based risk management and exceptional member service.



For more information speak to a broker on **1800 940 763** or email **pedorthicaa@bmsgroup.com**

In arranging this insurance for our members PAA is acting as a distributor of BMS Risk Solutions Pty Ltd (BMS) AFSL 461594, ABN 45161187980. The insurance is issued by BMS under binder with Certain Underwriters at Lloyds. When acting under a binder BMS acts as agent for the insurer and not as your agent. This is general advice only and BMS has not considered whether it was suitable for your particular objectives, needs or financial situation. Please read the Policy Wording and Financial Services Guide before making a decision about purchasing this policy.