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NEW O/P-AIDS FROM INVENTION TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE USER.

An administrative feed-back process in Sweden.

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When we met here in 1966, we were almost researchers, very much faced to technical problems in the O/P-field. After that many R & D results obviously have met several forms of resistance in many countries.

Since 1966 we have tried very hard in Sweden to solve even the economical, administrative and educational problems in the O/P-field. We import about 90 % of the O/P-aids. The Swedish orthopedic surgeons are allowed to prescribe any O/P product on the international market. The aid is free of charge for the patient. We have an evaluation system to help the prescriber to select the best UE orthoses and LE stimulators. We have started a cooperation to share the job with colleagues in Denmark.

On figure 1 you can realize the phases in the development process. The R & D nowadays takes place at firms, (seldom at scientific institutions) sponsored mainly by the Swedish Board for Technical Development.

The clinical type tests take place at hospitals - units for applied orthotics/prosthetics (ref 1) sponsored mainly by the Swedish Institute for the Handicapped. The technical tests take place at the producer and are checked by the mentioned unit (ref 2), figure 2.

The initial production of an O/P-aid can today be sponsored by government money funded at the Swedish Institute for the Handicapped - to get serials large enough for the firm - a key decision.

At marketing firms the new products compete with the international assortments.

The limb fitting shops are responsible for the application. They are connected to the hospitals, (firms or belong to the county).

The weak point of the diagram chain is today the training of the patient. The unit for applied O/P has a training team for the evaluation of the O/P-aids. The low frequency of the application of for example UE prosthetics makes it likely to establish very few training facilities (manipulation schools) in Sweden.

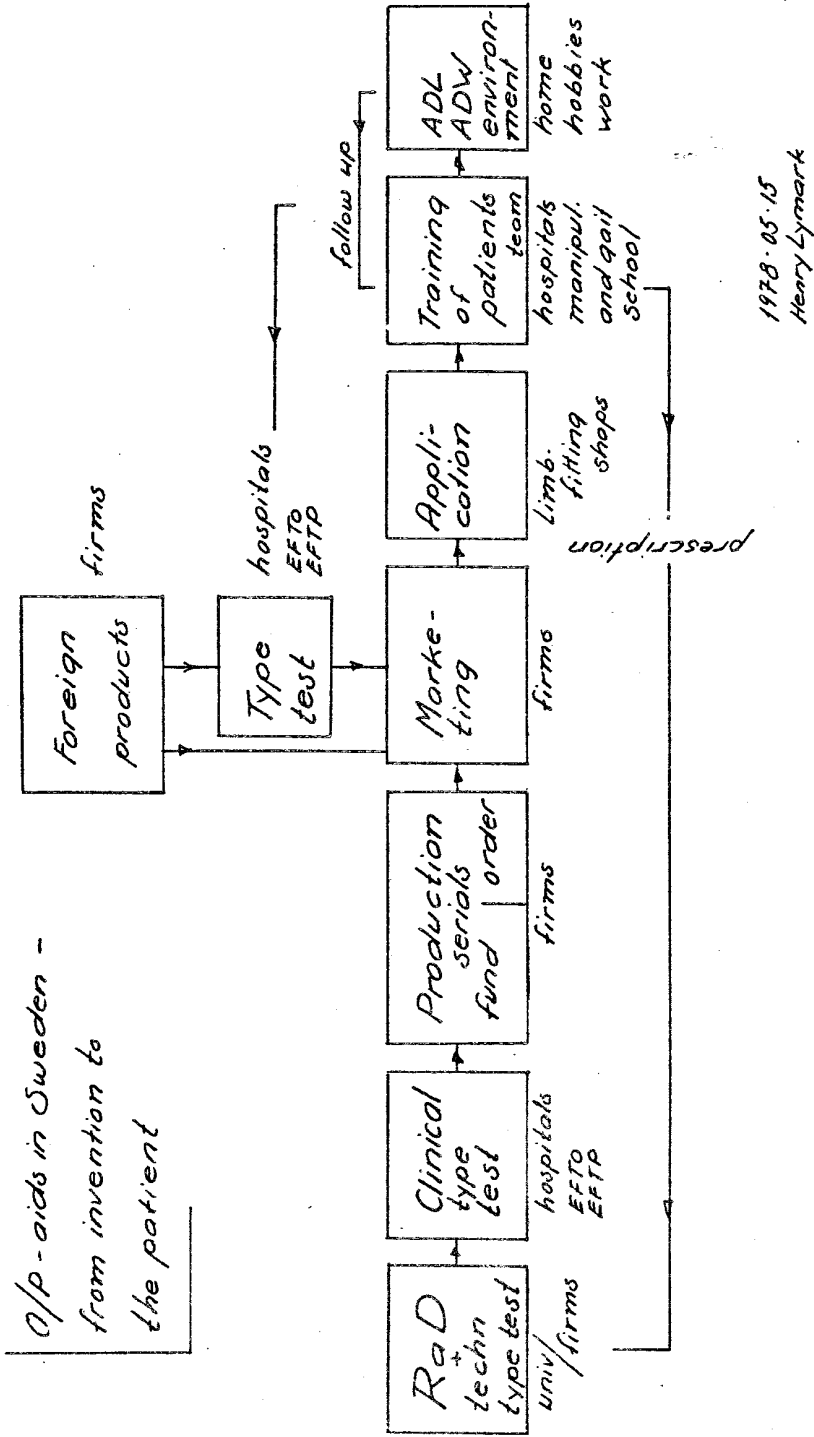
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The O/P-activities in daily living and work must be followed up by the training team continuously. At that team the OT and PT are the primary professions. We develop a certain O/P education for the OT and PT at present.

References

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- (2) Dillner, S., Georgiev, G., Ottosson, L-G.  
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1971 - 1978.  
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Department of Rehabilitation of Medicine, Central Hospital,  
Jönköping, Sweden.

Figure 1





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Sector for orthotics/prosthetics  
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Figure 2  
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## Tasks falling on Units for Applied Orthotics and Prosthetics

### Basic Plan

#### Evaluation

*Inventory*  
of technical specifications of commercial products

*Testing of various types*  
of commercial products, divided into clinical functional testing, and technical testing. (Technical testing is assigned to governmental general testing institutions)

*Evaluation of Swedish*

*R & D results*  
divided into checking of the technical testing of serial products carried out by the manufacturer or governmental testing institutions, and checking of the clinical functional testing of serial products (in some cases carried out by the unit staff itself)

#### Development

*Slight development*  
Short-term technical development aiming at serial production in Sweden

*Modifications*  
of commercial products, mostly aiming at serial production

#### Education

*Means of education*  
Planning and production of basic material for compendia, educational papers and films

*Extension courses*  
Planning and delivery of basic educational material for courses, specializing in different products which belong to a certain category of O/P aids

*Registration of literature*

Registration of articles and reports in accordance with the Swedish DATADOC system or the Winnipeg system

#### Investigations and documents

*Statistical need analyses*  
with regard to the purpose of various O/P aids, divided into functional categories

*Prescription guides*  
with regard to the functional categories of O/P aids

*R & D specifications*

Clinical functional specifications regarding slight as well as advanced development

*Test instructions*

containing norms and measuring methods

*Test records*

Dispositions and results

*Requirement specifications*

*ADL lists*

each covering one functional category of O/P aids

*ADL training programmes*

for each functional category of O/P aids