

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

Description/Background

Orthopedic footwear is generally used to assist gait, reduce pain, decrease weight bearing, control movement and minimize worsening of a deformity.

Refer to Therapeutic Shoe for Individuals with Diabetes policy (A5500-A5513) modifications and inserts.

Policy Statement

Orthopedic footwear is **reasonable and necessary** for members meeting policy guidelines.

Policy Guidelines

Medicare Member Coverage Criteria:

Refer to Medicare's medical policy (L33641) and article (A52481) for coverage criteria.

Non-Medicare Member Coverage Criteria:

Orthopedic footwear is reasonable and necessary for **adult** members (over 21 years of age) if:

- Criteria I (A, B, C, or D) are met; *or*
- Criteria II (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, or J) are met

Orthopedic footwear is reasonable and necessary for **pediatric** members (under 21 years of age) if:

- Criteria I (A, B, C or D) are met; *or*
- Criteria III (A, B, C, D, or E) are met

(In both adult and pediatric cases, criteria IV and V must also be met)

- I. Must be ordered by the Member's treating practitioner and any of the following applies:
 - A. Required to accommodate a leg length discrepancy of ¼ inch or greater

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

- B. Required to accommodate a size discrepancy between both feet of one size or greater
- C. Required to accommodate needs related to a partial foot prosthesis, clubfoot, or plantar fasciitis
- D. Required to accommodate a brace

II. Adults (skeletally mature feet):

- A. Acute plantar fasciitis
- B. Acute sport-related injuries (including diagnoses related to inflammatory problems, e.g., bursitis, tendonitis)
- C. Calcaneal bursitis (acute or chronic)
- D. Calcaneal spurs (heel spurs)
- E. Conditions related to diabetes (see section above on therapeutic shoes for diabetes for a complete list of medically necessary diagnoses)
- F. Inflammatory conditions (i.e., sesamoiditis; submetatarsal bursitis; synovitis; tenosynovitis; synovial cyst; osteomyelitis; metatarsalgia and plantar fascial fibromatosis)
- G. Medial osteoarthritis of the knee (lateral wedge insoles)
- H. Musculoskeletal/arthropathic deformities (including deformities of the joint or skeleton that impairs walking in a normal shoe, e.g. bunions, hallux valgus, talipes deformities, pes deformities, anomalies of toes)
- I. Neurologically impaired feet (including neuroma; tarsal tunnel syndrome; ganglionic cyst; and neuropathies involving the feet, including those associated with peripheral vascular disease, diabetes, carcinoma, drugs, toxins, and chronic renal disease)

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

- J. Vascular conditions (including ulceration, poor circulation, peripheral vascular disease, Buerger's disease (thromboangiitis obliterans), chronic thrombophlebitis).

Foot orthotics have no proven value for back pain, knee pain (other than medial osteoarthritis), pes planus (flat feet), pronation, corns and calluses, hammertoes, hip osteoarthritis, and lower leg injuries.

III. Children (skeletally immature feet):

- A. Hallux Valgus deformities
- B. In-toe or out-toe gait
- C. Musculoskeletal weakness (e.g., pronation, pes planus)
- D. Structural deformities (e.g., tarsal coalitions)
- E. Torsional conditions (e.g., metatarsus adductus, tibial torsion, femoral torsion)

and, for both adult and pediatric members:

- IV. The member must have symptoms associated with the particular foot condition (foot orthotics are not considered medically necessary when the foot condition does not cause symptoms); *and*
- V. The member has failed to respond to a course of appropriate conservative treatment (e.g., physical therapy, injections, strapping, anti-inflammatory medications). (Orthotics should not be considered first line therapy.)

Exclusions/Limitations:

General

Foot orthotics are considered experimental and investigational for the treatment of joint hypermobility syndrome.

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

Deluxe features of therapeutic shoes have no proven value. A deluxe feature is defined as a feature that does not contribute to the therapeutic function of the shoe. It may include, but is not limited to style, color, or type of leather.

Shoe modifications and replacements:

Medical necessity criteria for replacements of or modifications to existing customized shoes is based on the same criteria noted for the shoe itself. Replacement of a pair of shoes, or modifications, should be based on necessity (e.g., worn out, loss of effectiveness), not for convenience or style change.

Coding Guidelines

The right (RT) and/ or left (LT) modifiers must be used with all footwear HCPCS codes in this policy. When the same code for bilateral items (left and right) are billed on the same date of service, bill for both items on the same claim line using the RT/LT modifiers and 2 units of service. Claims billed without modifiers RT and/or LT will be rejected as incorrect coding.

Charcot Restraint Orthotic Walker – CROW Boot – Coding

The Charcot Restraint Orthotic Walker, also referred to as CROW boot or walker, was developed for members with severe deformity of the foot and ankle due to a sensory neuropathic arthropathy- most commonly caused by diabetes. The device is a bi-valved copolymer full foot enclosure, totally encapsulated around the ankle and foot with a rocker bottom sole built into the device. The orthosis is custom fabricated to a positive model made from an impression of the member's affected limb. It is fully lined and uses a custom foot insert. Appropriate modifications are performed to the impression, which permits for equal weight distribution through the limb and provides support of the ankle joint, tibia, and fibula. The CROW boot can be modified to accommodate changes by flaring, adding padding, and trimming where and when appropriate.

A CROW boot is billed using the following codes:

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

L1960 – ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, POSTERIOR SOLID ANKLE, PLASTIC, CUSTOM-FABRICATED

L2232 – ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, ROCKER BOTTOM FOR TOTAL CONTACT ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY

L2275 – ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, VARUS/VALGUS CORRECTION, PLASTIC MODIFICATION, PADDED/LINED

L2340 – ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, PRE-TIBIAL SHELL, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL

L2820 – ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, SOFT INTERFACE FOR MOLDED PLASTIC, BELOW KNEE SECTION

L3010 – FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, LONGITUDINAL ARCH SUPPORT, EACH

No other codes may be billed for a CROW boot. There is no separate billing for any modifications, fittings, or adjustments.

When these products are used solely to treat edema or ulcers or to prevent an ulcer of the lower extremity, suppliers should code them based on the member's condition. HCPCS code A9283 (Foot pressure off loading/supportive device, any type, each) was developed to describe various devices used for the treatment of edema or for a lower extremity ulcer or for the prevention of ulcers. If the CROW boot is used for these conditions and the member does not have Charcot Arthropathy then it should be coded A9283.

HCPCS Level II Codes and Description

L3000 FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, 'UCB' TYPE, BERKELEY SHELL, EACH

L3001 FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, SPENCO, EACH

L3002 FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL,

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

	PLASTAZOTE OR EQUAL, EACH
L3003	FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, SILICONE GEL, EACH
L3010	FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, LONGITUDINAL ARCH SUPPORT, EACH
L3020	FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, LONGITUDINAL/ METATARSAL SUPPORT, EACH
L3030	FOOT, INSERT, REMOVABLE, FORMED TO PATIENT FOOT, EACH
L3031	FOOT, INSERT/PLATE, REMOVABLE, ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, HIGH STRENGTH, LIGHTWEIGHT MATERIAL, ALL HYBRID LAMINATION/PREPREG COMPOSITE, EACH
L3040	FOOT, ARCH SUPPORT, REMOVABLE, PREMOLDED, LONGITUDINAL, EACH
L3050	FOOT, ARCH SUPPORT, REMOVABLE, PREMOLDED, METATARSAL, EACH
L3060	FOOT, ARCH SUPPORT, REMOVABLE, PREMOLDED, LONGITUDINAL/ METATARSAL, EACH
L3070	FOOT, ARCH SUPPORT, NON-REMOVABLE ATTACHED TO SHOE, LONGITUDINAL, EACH
L3080	FOOT, ARCH SUPPORT, NON-REMOVABLE ATTACHED TO SHOE, METATARSAL, EACH
L3090	FOOT, ARCH SUPPORT, NON-REMOVABLE ATTACHED TO SHOE, LONGITUDINAL/METATARSAL, EACH
L3100	HALLUS-VALGUS NIGHT DYNAMIC SPLINT
L3140	FOOT, ABDUCTION ROTATION BAR, INCLUDING SHOES
L3150	FOOT, ABDUCTION ROTATATION BAR, WITHOUT SHOES
L3160	FOOT, ADJUSTABLE SHOE-STYLED POSITIONING DEVICE
L3170	FOOT, PLASTIC, SILICONE OR EQUAL, HEEL STABILIZER, EACH

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

- L3201 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, OXFORD WITH SUPINATOR OR PRONATOR, INFANT
- L3202 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, OXFORD WITH SUPINATOR OR PRONATOR, CHILD
- L3203 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, OXFORD WITH SUPINATOR OR PRONATOR, JUNIOR
- L3204 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, HIGHTOP WITH SUPINATOR OR PRONATOR, INFANT
- L3206 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, HIGHTOP WITH SUPINATOR OR PRONATOR, CHILD
- L3207 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, HIGHTOP WITH SUPINATOR OR PRONATOR, JUNIOR
- L3208 SURGICAL BOOT, EACH, INFANT
- L3209 SURGICAL BOOT, EACH, CHILD
- L3211 SURGICAL BOOT, EACH, JUNIOR
- L3212 BENESCH BOOT, PAIR, INFANT
- L3213 BENESCH BOOT, PAIR, CHILD
- L3214 BENESCH BOOT, PAIR, JUNIOR
- L3215 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, LADIES SHOE, OXFORD, EACH
- L3216 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, LADIES SHOE, DEPTH INLAY, EACH
- L3217 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, LADIES SHOE, HIGHTOP, DEPTH INLAY, EACH
- L3219 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, MENS SHOE, OXFORD, EACH
- L3221 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, MENS SHOE, DEPTH INLAY, EACH
- L3222 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, MENS SHOE, HIGHTOP, DEPTH INLAY, EACH

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

- L3224 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, WOMAN'S SHOE, OXFORD, USED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A BRACE (ORTHOSIS)
- L3225 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, MAN'S SHOE, OXFORD, USED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A BRACE (ORTHOSIS)
- L3230 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, CUSTOM SHOE, DEPTH INLAY, EACH
- L3250 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, CUSTOM MOLDED SHOE, REMOVABLE INNER MOLD, PROSTHETIC SHOE, EACH
- L3251 FOOT, SHOE MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, SILICONE SHOE, EACH
- L3252 FOOT, SHOE MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, PLASTAZOTE (OR SIMILAR), CUSTOM FABRICATED, EACH
- L3253 FOOT, MOLDED SHOE PLASTAZOTE (OR SIMILAR) CUSTOM FITTED, EACH
- L3254 NON-STANDARD SIZE OR WIDTH
- L3255 NON-STANDARD SIZE OR LENGTH
- L3257 ORTHOPEDIC FOOTWEAR, ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR SPLIT SIZE
- L3260 SURGICAL BOOT/SHOE, EACH
- L3265 PLASTAZOTE SANDAL, EACH
- L3300 LIFT, ELEVATION, HEEL, TAPERED TO METATARSALS, PER INCH
- L3310 LIFT, ELEVATION, HEEL AND SOLE, NEOPRENE, PER INCH
- L3320 LIFT, ELEVATION, HEEL AND SOLE, CORK, PER INCH
- L3330 LIFT, ELEVATION, METAL EXTENSION (SKATE)
- L3332 LIFT, ELEVATION, INSIDE SHOE, TAPERED, UP TO ONE-HALF INCH
- L3334 LIFT, ELEVATION, HEEL, PER INCH
- L3340 HEEL WEDGE, EACH
- L3350 HEEL WEDGE
- L3360 SOLE WEDGE, OUTSIDE SOLE

Medical Policy



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L3370 SOLE WEDGE, BETWEEN SOLE

L3380 CLUBFOOT WEDGE

L3390 OUTFLARE WEDGE

L3400 METATARSAL BAR WEDGE, ROCKER

L3410 METATARSAL BAR WEDGE, BETWEEN SOLE

L3420 FULL SOLE AND HEEL WEDGE, BETWEEN SOLE

L3430 HEEL, COUNTER, PLASTIC REINFORCED

L3440 HEEL, COUNTER, LEATHER REINFORCED

L3450 HEEL, SACH CUSHION TYPE

L3455 HEEL, NEW LEATHER, STANDARD

L3460 HEEL, NEW RUBBER, STANDARD

L3465 HEEL, THOMAS WITH WEDGE

L3470 HEEL, THOMAS EXTENDED TO BALL

L3480 HEEL, PAD AND DEPRESSION FOR SPUR

L3485 HEEL, PAD, REMOVABLE FOR SPUR

L3500 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, INSOLE, LEATHER

L3510 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, INSOLE, RUBBER

L3520 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, INSOLE, FELT COVERED WITH LEATHER

L3530 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, SOLE, HALF

L3540 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, SOLE, FULL

L3550 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, TOE TAP STANDARD

L3560 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, TOE TAP, HORSESHOE

L3570 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, SPECIAL EXTENSION TO INSTEP

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

(LEATHER WITH EYELETS)

L3580 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, CONVERT INSTEP TO VELCRO CLOSURE

L3590 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, CONVERT FIRM SHOE COUNTER TO SOFT COUNTER

L3595 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE ADDITION, MARCH BAR

L3600 TRANSFER OF AN ORTHOSIS FROM ONE SHOE TO ANOTHER, CALIPER PLATE, EXISTING

L3610 TRANSFER OF AN ORTHOSIS FROM ONE SHOE TO ANOTHER, CALIPER PLATE, NEW

L3620 TRANSFER OF AN ORTHOSIS FROM ONE SHOE TO ANOTHER, SOLID STIRRUP, EXISTING

L3630 TRANSFER OF AN ORTHOSIS FROM ONE SHOE TO ANOTHER, SOLID STIRRUP, NEW

L3640 TRANSFER OF AN ORTHOSIS FROM ONE SHOE TO ANOTHER, DENNIS BROWNE SPLINT (RIVETON), BOTH SHOES

L3649 ORTHOPEDIC SHOE, MODIFICATION, ADDITION OR TRANSFER, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

Important Note:

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating practitioner in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Cross Reference to Related Policies and Procedures

1. CGS Administrators, LLC. Jurisdiction B DME MAC, Orthopedic Footwear. Local Coverage Determination No. L33641 revised date January 1, 2020. Reviewed December 17, 2019, December 2020.
2. Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC. Orthopedic Footwear. Local Coverage Determination No. L33641. Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Carrier Jurisdiction A; revised January 1, 2020. Reviewed December 17, 2019, December 2020.
3. Aetna: Foot Orthotics
http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/400_499/0451.html
4. Rubin G, Cohen E. Prostheses and orthoses for the foot and ankle. Clin Podiatr Med Surg. 1988;5(3):695-719.
5. Lockard MA. Foot orthoses. Phys Ther. 1988;68(12):1866-1873.

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

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7. Hicks JE, Leonard JA Jr, Nelson VS, et al. Prosthetics, orthotics, and assistive devices. 4. Orthotic management of selected disorders. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 1989;70(5-S):S210-S217.
8. Hoffinger SA. Evaluation and management of pediatric foot deformities. Pediatr Clin North Am. 1996;43(5):1091-111.
9. Neal D, Adams IM, eds. Common Foot Disorders: Diagnosis and Management. 2nd ed. Edinburgh, UK: Churchill Livingstone; 1985.
10. Egan M, Brosseau L, Farmer M, et al. Splints and orthosis for treating rheumatoid arthritis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2001;(4):CD004018.
11. Crawford F, Thomson C. Interventions for treating plantar heel pain. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2003;(3):CD000416.
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15. Ashford R, Kippen C, Rome K. Interventions for pes planus (Protocol for Cochrane Review). Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2005;(1):CD005120.
16. Ferrari J, Higgins JPT, Prior TD. Interventions for treating hallux valgus (abductovalgus) and bunions. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2004;(1):CD000964.
17. Brouwer RW, Jakma TS, Verhagen AP, et al. Braces and orthoses for treating osteoarthritis of the knee. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2005;(1):CD004020.
18. Powell M, Seid M, Szer IS. Efficacy of custom foot orthotics in improving pain and functional status in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis: A randomized trial. J Rheumatol. 2005;32(5):943-950.

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

19. Farrow SJ, Kingsley GH, Scott DL. Interventions for foot disease in rheumatoid arthritis: A systematic review. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005;53(4):593-602.
20. Clark H, Rome K, Plant M, et al. A critical review of foot orthoses in the rheumatoid arthritic foot. *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2006;45(2):139-145.
21. Reilly KA, Barker KL, Shamley D. A systematic review of lateral wedge orthotics—how useful are they in the management of medial compartment osteoarthritis? *Knee.* 2006;13(3):177-183.

Applicable URAC Standard

Core 8	Staff operational tools and support
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Change/Authorization History

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Prepared/Reviewed by	Approved by	Review Date:	Effective Date:
A	Nov.2006	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnani	Ken Fasse	n/a	
01	Jan.2008	Under Exclusions, HCPCS code A 9283 was added	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse		
02		Annual Review / no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec. 2008	
03	10-01-09	Policy update. Revised RT/LT modifier instructions. Changed SADMERC to PDAC	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse		
04	12-22-09	Policy updated to include CROW walker information. Annual Review/ no additional changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec. 2009	

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

05	12-03-10	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2010	
06	03-21-11	Added info that providers must include when submitting a claim for Replacement Orthopedic Footwear.	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse		
07	6-30-11	Policy updated to reflect current practice.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
08	07-20-11	Added Important Note to all Medical Policies	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
09	11-30-11	Annual Review. Added References to Policy	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Nov. 2011	
10	04-04-12	Added reference to NH Medicaid	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
11	08-21-12	Added Metatarsalgia to coverage criteria for adults.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	August 2012	
12	12-3-12	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec 12	
13	12-18-13	Annual review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
14	12-4-14	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
15	12-16-15	Annual Review. Included information regarding refereeing to Medicare coverage for Medicare members. Updated references.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri		
16	12-08-16	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	December 2016	

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

17	12-20-17	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	December 2017	
18	12-12-18	Annual review. Per Medicare guidelines, an order is not required for a heel or sole replacement or transfer of a shoe to a brace. Medicare references updated.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	December 2018	
19	12-17-19	Annual review. No changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	December 2019	December 2019
20	8-27-20	<p>Revised Coverage Criteria verbiage for clarity: Orthopedic footwear is reasonable and necessary for adult members (over 21 years of age) if: Criteria I (A, B, C, or D) are met; <i>or</i> Criteria II (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, or J) are met</p> <p>Orthopedic footwear is reasonable and necessary for pediatric members (under 21 years of age) if: Criteria I (A, B, C or D) are met; <i>or</i> Criteria III (A, B, C, D, or E) are met <i>(In both adult and pediatric cases, criteria IV and V must also be met)</i></p>	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	August 27, 2020	August 2020

Medical Policy



Orthopedic Footwear (Inserts, Arch Support/Removable/Pre-molded, Abduction/Rotation Bars, Footwear, Shoe Modifications – Lifts/Wedges/Heels, Miscellaneous Shoe Additions, Transfer or Replacement)

21	12-11-20	Annual Review. Updated 'physician' to 'practitioner'.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	December 2020	December 2020
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