

CHAPTER 8 SECTION 2.1

PODIATRY

Issue Date: September 20, 1990

Authority: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2) and (g)(31)

I. DESCRIPTION

This section applies to services provided by doctors of Podiatry or surgical Chiropody (reference 32 CFR 199.6(c)(3)(iii)(A)(3)). Podiatry is the specialized field that deals with the study and care of the foot, including its anatomy, pathology, medical and surgical treatment (including the ankle and lower extremity in some states).

II. POLICY

A. Podiatric services **and related services, such as laboratory and radiology services,** are covered.

B. Routine foot care services for peripheral vascular disease, metabolic or neurological disease may be covered.

III. EXCLUSIONS

A. **Removal of corns, calluses, trimming of toenails, and other routine podiatry services are excluded for coverage, unless the patient has a diagnosed systemic medical disease affecting the lower limbs.**

B. **Nerve blocks performed for the theoretical purpose of increasing blood supply to the foot and toes.**

C. Shoe inserts, orthopedic shoes (except when attached to a brace), arch supports and other supportive devices for the feet, are excluded by law from coverage regardless of the diagnosis.

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