

ORTHOTICS

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I. DESCRIPTION

Orthotics is the field of knowledge relating to the making of an appliance or apparatus used to support, align, prevent, or correct deformities or to improve the function of movable parts of the body.

II. POLICY

A. Orthotic devices are covered.

B. For individuals with diabetes, extra-depth shoes with inserts or custom molded shoes with inserts are covered.

C. Orthopedic braces including shoes which are an integral part of the brace--neither the shoe nor the brace is usable separately--are covered.

III. EXCLUSIONS

The following types of orthoses are excluded from TRICARE coverage:

A. Orthopedic shoes (except for orthopedic shoes which are an integral part of a brace).

B. Arch supports.

C. Shoe inserts.

D. Other supportive devices of the feet, such as, wedges, specialized fillers, heels straps, pads, shanks, etc.

E. Cranial orthosis (Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty Band) and cranial molding helmets for nonsynostotic positional plagiocephaly (deformational plagiocephaly, plagiocephaly without synostosis) (HCPCS S1040). **The use of this device for all other indications is excluded on the basis that this is off-label use of a device. For policy provisions on the use of**

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CHAPTER 8, SECTION 3.1

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this device for Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) beneficiaries, see Chapter 1, Section 17.1.

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