

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 110
(A-24)

Introduced by: American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics

Subject: Coverage for Shoes and Shoe Modifications for Pediatrics Patients Who Require Lower Extremity Orthoses

Referred to: Reference Committee A

- 1 Whereas, pediatric patients with musculoskeletal and/or neuromuscular disorders frequently
2 require lower extremity orthoses to help with their mobility, maximize their function, and prevent
3 contractures; and
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- 5 Whereas, an orthosis or orthotic device is defined by the International Standards Organization
6 as an externally applied device used to modify the structural and functional characteristics of the
7 neuromuscular and skeletal system; and
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- 9 Whereas, shoes that work with lower extremity orthoses are an essential component of the
10 orthotic intervention; and
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- 12 Whereas, one of the goals when choosing the orthoses is to optimize forces and moments
13 acting on bones, ligaments, and joints during standing and walking to allow for the most natural
14 gait; and
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- 16 Whereas, the orthoses will not normalize the gait to the best potential without proper footwear;
17 and
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- 19 Whereas, there are some shoe options on the market that are deep and roomy enough to
20 accommodate braces which eliminates the need for custom shoes for most patients; and
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- 22 Whereas, the commercially available shoes may require external modifications, such as for leg
23 length discrepancy or plantar flexion contracture, which require foot elevation or an external
24 heel lift respectively; and
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- 26 Whereas, patients with severe hypotonia, calcaneus feet, and severe crouch using solid ankle-
27 foot orthoses (AFOs) to ambulate require shoes with a stiff sole, custom rocker, and heel lever
28 to maintain consistent roll over to imitate the natural rocking motion of gait; and
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- 30 Whereas, those shoe modifications are relatively inexpensive and in the skilled hands of an
31 orthotist are easy to accomplish; and
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- 33 Whereas, insurance coverage for shoes to use with orthoses as well as shoe modifications is
34 limited or nonexistent; and
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- 36 Whereas, this creates a burden on the patients and families and makes the providers more
37 hesitant to recommend the shoe modifications despite being medically indicated; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support coverage by all private and
2 government insurance companies for pediatric footwear suitable for use with lower extremity
3 orthoses and medically necessary shoe modifications. (New HOD Policy)
4

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

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