

CHAPTER 7  
SECTION 5.5

## THERAPEUTIC SHOES FOR DIABETICS

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### I. PROCEDURE CODE

**06954**

### II. POLICY

Coverage of extra-depth shoes with inserts or custom molded shoes with inserts for individuals with diabetes.

### III. COVERAGE LIMITATION

A. For each individual, coverage of the footwear and inserts is limited to one of the following within one calendar year:

1. One pair of custom molded shoes (including inserts provided with such shoes) and two pairs of multidensity inserts, or

2. One pair of extra-depth shoes (not including inserts provided with such shoes) and three pairs of multidensity inserts.

3. Modification of custom-molded or extra-depth shoes may be substituted for one pair of inserts, other than the initial pair of inserts. The most common modifications available are:

- a. Rigid rocker bottoms
- b. Roller bottoms
- c. Metatarsal bars
- d. Wedges
- e. Offset heels

B. The physician who is managing the beneficiary's systemic diabetic condition must:

1. Document that the patient has diabetes
2. Document that the patient has one or more of the following conditions:
  - a. Previous amputation of the foot or part of the foot
  - b. History of previous foot ulceration
  - c. Pre-ulcerative callus formation, or peripheral neuropathy with a history of callus formation, foot deformity, or poor circulation; and
  - d. Certify that the patient is being treated under a comprehensive plan of care for his diabetes and needs therapeutic shoes.

C. Following certification by the physician managing the patient's systemic diabetic condition, a podiatrist or other qualified physician, knowledgeable in the fitting of the therapeutic shoes and inserts, may prescribe the necessary footwear.

*NOTE: The footwear must be fitted and furnished by a podiatrist or other qualified practitioner such as a pedorthist, orthotist, or prosthetist. The certifying physician may not furnish the therapeutic shoes unless a specialist as identified in this [paragraph III.C.](#) is not available.*

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE            May 1, 1993.

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