

## ORTHOTICS

ISSUE DATE: September 20, 1990

AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.4\(d\)\(3\)\(viii\)](#)

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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.

D. The Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty (DOC) Band Post-Op device is covered for adjunctive use for infants from three to eighteen months of age whose synostosis has been surgically corrected, but who still have moderate to severe cranial deformities including plagiocephalic-, brachycephalic-, and scaphocephalic-shaped heads (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code S1040).

### 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.

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E. Cranial orthosis (DOC Band) and cranial molding helmets are not covered for the treatment of nonsynostotic positional plagiocephaly (deformational plagiocephaly, plagiocephaly without synostosis) or for the treatment of craniosynostosis before surgery.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

December 17, 2004, for the DOC Band Post-Op device.

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