

Medical Policy



Ankle-Foot/Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis

▼ Description

For an orthotic item to be considered for coverage, it must be a rigid or semi-rigid device which is used for the purpose of supporting a weak or deformed body member or restricting or eliminating motion in a diseased or injured part of the body. It must provide support and counterforce (i.e., a force in a defined direction of a magnitude at least as great as a rigid or semi-rigid support) on the limb or body part that is being used to brace. Items that do not meet the definition of a brace are considered not reasonable and necessary.

▼ Policy

An ankle-foot orthoses (AFO) and knee-ankle-foot orthoses (KAFO) are **reasonable and necessary** for Members who meet the coverage criteria outlined below.

▼ Policy Guidelines

AFOs NOT USED DURING AMBULATION:

An L4396 or L4397 (Static or dynamic positioning ankle-foot orthosis) is covered if either all of criteria 1 - 4 or criterion 5 is met:

1. Plantar flexion contracture of the ankle (see Diagnosis Codes That Support Medical Necessity Group 1 Codes section) with dorsiflexion on passive range of motion testing of at least 10 degrees (i.e., a non-fixed contracture); and,
2. Reasonable expectation of the ability to correct the contracture; and,
3. Contracture is interfering or expected to interfere significantly with the member's functional abilities; and,
4. Used as a component of a therapy program which includes active stretching of the involved muscles and/or tendons.
5. The member has plantar fasciitis (see Diagnosis Codes That Support Medical Necessity Group 1 Codes section)

If an L4396 or L4397 is used for the treatment of a plantar flexion contracture, the pre-treatment passive range of motion must be measured with a goniometer and documented in the medical record. There must be documentation of an appropriate stretching program carried out by professional staff (in a nursing facility) or caregiver (at home).

An L4396 or L4397 and replacement interface (L4392) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary if the contracture is fixed. Codes L4396, L4397 and L4392 will be denied as not reasonable and necessary for a member with a foot drop but without an ankle flexion contracture. A component of a static/dynamic AFO that is used to address positioning of the knee or hip will be denied as not reasonable and necessary because the effectiveness of this type of component is not established.

If code L4396 or L4397 is covered, a replacement interface (L4392) is covered as long as the member continues to meet indications and other coverage rules for the splint. Coverage of a replacement interface is limited to a maximum of one (1) per 6 months. Additional interfaces will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Medicare does not reimburse for a foot drop splint/recumbent positioning device (L4398) or replacement interface (L4394). A foot drop splint/recumbent positioning device and replacement interface will be denied as not reasonable and necessary in a member with foot drop who is non-ambulatory because there are other more appropriate treatment modalities.

AFOs AND KAFOs USED DURING AMBULATION:

Ankle-foot orthoses (AFO) described by codes L1900, L1902-L1990, L2106-L2116, L4350, L4360, L4386, L4387 and L4631 are covered for ambulatory members with weakness or deformity of the foot and ankle, who:

1. Require stabilization for medical reasons, and,
2. Have the potential to benefit functionally.

Knee-ankle-foot orthoses (KAFO) described by codes L2000-L2038, L2126-L2136, and L4370 are covered for ambulatory members for whom an ankle-foot orthosis is covered and for whom additional knee stability is required.

If the basic coverage criteria for an AFO or KAFO are not met, the orthosis will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

AFOs and KAFOs that are custom-fabricated are covered for ambulatory members when the basic coverage criteria listed above and one of the following criteria are met:

1. The member could not be fit with a prefabricated AFO; or,

2. The condition necessitating the orthosis is expected to be permanent or of longstanding duration (more than 6 months); or,
3. There is a need to control the knee, ankle or foot in more than one plane; or,
4. The member has a documented neurological, circulatory, or orthopedic status that requires custom fabricating over a model to prevent tissue injury; or,
5. The member has a healing fracture which lacks normal anatomical integrity or anthropometric proportions.

If a custom fabricated orthosis is provided but basic coverage criteria above and the additional criteria 1-5 for a custom fabricated orthosis are not met, the custom fabricated orthosis will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

L coded additions to AFOs and KAFOs (L2180-L2550, L2750-L2768, L2780-L2830) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary if either the base orthosis is not reasonable and necessary or the specific addition is not reasonable and necessary.

Concentric adjustable torsion style mechanisms used to assist knee joint extension are coded as L2999 and are covered for members who require knee extension assist in the absence of any co-existing joint contracture.

Concentric adjustable torsion style mechanisms used to assist ankle joint plantarflexion or dorsiflexion are coded as L2999 and are covered for members who require ankle plantar or dorsiflexion assist in the absence of any co-existing joint contracture.

Concentric adjustable torsion style mechanisms used for the treatment of contractures, regardless of any co-existing condition(s), are coded as E1810 and/or E1815 and are covered under the Durable Medical Equipment benefit (see related Policy Article Coding Guidelines for additional information).

Claims for devices incorporating concentric adjustable torsion style mechanisms used for the treatment of any joint contracture and coded as L2999 will be denied as incorrect coding.

Refer to the Orthopedic Footwear policy for information on coverage of shoes and related items which are an integral part of a brace.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Replacement of a complete orthosis or component of an orthosis due to loss, significant change in the member's condition, or irreparable accidental damage is covered if the device is still reasonable and necessary. The reason for the replacement must be documented in the supplier's record.

Replacement components (e.g., soft interfaces) that are provided on a routine basis, without regard to whether the original item is worn out, are denied as not reasonable and necessary.

HCPCS CODES:

Group 1 Codes:

HCPCS	Description
A4466	GARMENT, BELT, SLEEVE OR OTHER COVERING, ELASTIC OR SIMILAR STRETCHABLE MATERIAL, ANY TYPE, EACH
A9283	FOOT PRESSURE OFF LOADING/SUPPORTIVE DEVICE, ANY TYPE, EACH
L1900	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SPRING WIRE, DORSIFLEXION ASSIST CALF BAND, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1902	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, ANKLE GAUNTLET, PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L1904	ANKLE ORTHOSIS, ANKLE GAUNTLET, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1906	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, MULTILIGAMENTUS ANKLE SUPPORT, PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L1907	ANKLE ORTHOSIS, SUPRAMALLEOLAR WITH STRAPS, WITH OR WITHOUT INTERFACE/PADS, CUSTOM FABRICATED
L1910	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, POSTERIOR, SINGLE BAR, CLASP ATTACHMENT TO SHOE COUNTER, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L1920	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SINGLE UPRIGHT WITH STATIC OR ADJUSTABLE STOP (PHELPS OR PERLSTEIN TYPE), CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1930	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, PLASTIC OR OTHER MATERIAL, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L1932	AFO, RIGID ANTERIOR TIBIAL SECTION, TOTAL CARBON FIBER OR EQUAL MATERIAL, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L1940	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, PLASTIC OR OTHER MATERIAL, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1945	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, PLASTIC, RIGID ANTERIOR TIBIAL SECTION (FLOOR REACTION), CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1950	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SPIRAL, (INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATIVE MEDICINE TYPE), PLASTIC, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1951	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SPIRAL, (INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATIVE MEDICINE TYPE), PLASTIC OR OTHER MATERIAL, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND

HCPCS	Description
	ADJUSTMENT
L1960	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, POSTERIOR SOLID ANKLE, PLASTIC, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1970	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, PLASTIC WITH ANKLE JOINT, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1971	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, PLASTIC OR OTHER MATERIAL WITH ANKLE JOINT, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L1980	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SINGLE UPRIGHT FREE PLANTAR DORSIFLEXION, SOLID STIRRUP, CALF BAND/CUFF (SINGLE BAR 'BK' ORTHOSIS), CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L1990	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, DOUBLE UPRIGHT FREE PLANTAR DORSIFLEXION, SOLID STIRRUP, CALF BAND/CUFF (DOUBLE BAR 'BK' ORTHOSIS), CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2000	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SINGLE UPRIGHT, FREE KNEE, FREE ANKLE, SOLID STIRRUP, THIGH AND CALF BANDS/CUFFS (SINGLE BAR 'AK' ORTHOSIS), CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2005	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, ANY MATERIAL, SINGLE OR DOUBLE UPRIGHT, STANCE CONTROL, AUTOMATIC LOCK AND SWING PHASE RELEASE, ANY TYPE ACTIVATION, INCLUDES ANKLE JOINT, ANY TYPE, CUSTOM FABRICATED
L2010	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, SINGLE UPRIGHT, FREE ANKLE, SOLID STIRRUP, THIGH AND CALF BANDS/CUFFS (SINGLE BAR 'AK' ORTHOSIS), WITHOUT KNEE JOINT, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2020	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, DOUBLE UPRIGHT, FREE ANKLE, SOLID STIRRUP, THIGH AND CALF BANDS/CUFFS (DOUBLE BAR 'AK' ORTHOSIS), CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2030	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, DOUBLE UPRIGHT, FREE ANKLE, SOLID STIRRUP, THIGH AND CALF BANDS/CUFFS, (DOUBLE BAR 'AK' ORTHOSIS), WITHOUT KNEE JOINT, CUSTOM FABRICATED
L2034	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FULL PLASTIC, SINGLE UPRIGHT, WITH OR WITHOUT FREE MOTION KNEE, MEDIAL LATERAL ROTATION CONTROL, WITH OR WITHOUT FREE MOTION ANKLE, CUSTOM FABRICATED
L2035	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FULL PLASTIC, STATIC (PEDIATRIC SIZE), WITHOUT FREE MOTION ANKLE, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2036	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FULL PLASTIC, DOUBLE UPRIGHT, WITH OR WITHOUT FREE MOTION KNEE, WITH OR

HCPCS	Description
L2037	WITHOUT FREE MOTION ANKLE, CUSTOM FABRICATED KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FULL PLASTIC, SINGLE UPRIGHT, WITH OR WITHOUT FREE MOTION KNEE, WITH OR WITHOUT FREE MOTION ANKLE, CUSTOM FABRICATED
L2038	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FULL PLASTIC, WITH OR WITHOUT FREE MOTION KNEE, MULTI-AXIS ANKLE, CUSTOM FABRICATED
L2106	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, TIBIAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, THERMOPLASTIC TYPE CASTING MATERIAL, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2108	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, TIBIAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2112	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, TIBIAL FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, SOFT, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2114	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, TIBIAL FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, SEMI-RIGID, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2116	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, TIBIAL FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, RIGID, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2126	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, FEMORAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, THERMOPLASTIC TYPE CASTING MATERIAL, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2128	KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, FEMORAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, CUSTOM-FABRICATED
L2132	KAFO, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, FEMORAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, SOFT, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2134	KAFO, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, FEMORAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, SEMI-RIGID, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2136	KAFO, FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, FEMORAL FRACTURE CAST ORTHOSIS, RIGID, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT
L2180	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, PLASTIC SHOE INSERT WITH ANKLE JOINTS
L2182	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, DROP LOCK KNEE JOINT
L2184	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, LIMITED MOTION KNEE JOINT

HCPCS	Description
L2186	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, ADJUSTABLE MOTION KNEE JOINT, LERMAN TYPE
L2188	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, QUADRILATERAL BRIM
L2190	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, WAIST BELT
L2192	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY FRACTURE ORTHOSIS, HIP JOINT, PELVIC BAND, THIGH FLANGE, AND PELVIC BELT
L2200	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, LIMITED ANKLE MOTION, EACH JOINT
L2210	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, DORSIFLEXION ASSIST (PLANTAR FLEXION RESIST), EACH JOINT
L2220	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, DORSIFLEXION AND PLANTAR FLEXION ASSIST/RESIST, EACH JOINT
L2230	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, SPLIT FLAT CALIPER STIRRUPS AND PLATE ATTACHMENT
L2232	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, ROCKER BOTTOM FOR TOTAL CONTACT ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L2240	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, ROUND CALIPER AND PLATE ATTACHMENT
L2250	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, FOOT PLATE, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, STIRRUP ATTACHMENT
L2260	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, REINFORCED SOLID STIRRUP (SCOTT-CRAIG TYPE)
L2265	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, LONG TONGUE STIRRUP
L2270	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, VARUS/VALGUS CORRECTION ('T') STRAP, PADDED/LINED OR MALLEOLUS PAD
L2275	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, VARUS/VALGUS CORRECTION, PLASTIC MODIFICATION, PADDED/LINED
L2280	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, MOLDED INNER BOOT
L2300	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, ABDUCTION BAR (BILATERAL HIP INVOLVEMENT), JOINTED, ADJUSTABLE
L2310	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, ABDUCTION BAR-STRAIGHT
L2320	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, NON-MOLDED LACER, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L2330	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, LACER MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L2335	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, ANTERIOR SWING BAND

HCPCS	Description
L2340	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, PRE-TIBIAL SHELL, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL
L2350	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, PROSTHETIC TYPE, (BK) SOCKET, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL, (USED FOR 'PTB' 'AFO' ORTHOSES)
L2360	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, EXTENDED STEEL SHANK
L2370	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, PATTEN BOTTOM
L2375	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, TORSION CONTROL, ANKLE JOINT AND HALF SOLID STIRRUP
L2380	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, TORSION CONTROL, STRAIGHT KNEE JOINT, EACH JOINT
L2385	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, STRAIGHT KNEE JOINT, HEAVY DUTY, EACH JOINT
L2387	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, POLYCENTRIC KNEE JOINT, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, EACH JOINT
L2390	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, OFFSET KNEE JOINT, EACH JOINT
L2395	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, OFFSET KNEE JOINT, HEAVY DUTY, EACH JOINT
L2397	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, SUSPENSION SLEEVE
L2405	ADDITION TO KNEE JOINT, DROP LOCK, EACH
L2415	ADDITION TO KNEE LOCK WITH INTEGRATED RELEASE MECHANISM (BAIL, CABLE, OR EQUAL), ANY MATERIAL, EACH JOINT
L2425	ADDITION TO KNEE JOINT, DISC OR DIAL LOCK FOR ADJUSTABLE KNEE FLEXION, EACH JOINT
L2430	ADDITION TO KNEE JOINT, RATCHET LOCK FOR ACTIVE AND PROGRESSIVE KNEE EXTENSION, EACH JOINT
L2492	ADDITION TO KNEE JOINT, LIFT LOOP FOR DROP LOCK RING
L2500	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING, GLUTEAL/ ISCHIAL WEIGHT BEARING, RING
L2510	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING, QUADRI- LATERAL BRIM, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL
L2520	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING, QUADRI- LATERAL BRIM, CUSTOM FITTED
L2525	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING, ISCHIAL CONTAINMENT/NARROW M-L BRIM MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL
L2526	ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING,

HCP	PCS	Description
		ISCHIAL CONTAINMENT/NARROW M-L BRIM, CUSTOM FITTED
L2530		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH-WEIGHT BEARING, LACER, NON-MOLDED
L2540		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING, LACER, MOLDED TO PATIENT MODEL
L2550		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY, THIGH/WEIGHT BEARING, HIGH ROLL CUFF
L2750		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, PLATING CHROME OR NICKEL, PER BAR
L2755		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, HIGH STRENGTH, LIGHTWEIGHT MATERIAL, ALL HYBRID LAMINATION/PREPREG COMPOSITE, PER SEGMENT, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L2760		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, EXTENSION, PER EXTENSION, PER BAR (FOR LINEAL ADJUSTMENT FOR GROWTH)
L2768		ORTHOTIC SIDE BAR DISCONNECT DEVICE, PER BAR
L2780		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, NON-CORROSIVE FINISH, PER BAR
L2785		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, DROP LOCK RETAINER, EACH
L2795		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, KNEE CONTROL, FULL KNEECAP
L2800		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, KNEE CONTROL, KNEE CAP, MEDIAL OR LATERAL PULL, FOR USE WITH CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L2810		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, KNEE CONTROL, CONDYLAR PAD
L2820		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, SOFT INTERFACE FOR MOLDED PLASTIC, BELOW KNEE SECTION
L2830		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, SOFT INTERFACE FOR MOLDED PLASTIC, ABOVE KNEE SECTION
L2840		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, TIBIAL LENGTH SOCK, FRACTURE OR EQUAL, EACH
L2850		ADDITION TO LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSIS, FEMORAL LENGTH SOCK, FRACTURE OR EQUAL, EACH
L2999		LOWER EXTREMITY ORTHOSES, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
L4002		REPLACEMENT STRAP, ANY ORTHOSIS, INCLUDES ALL COMPONENTS, ANY LENGTH, ANY TYPE
L4010		REPLACE TRILATERAL SOCKET BRIM
L4020		REPLACE QUADRILATERAL SOCKET BRIM, MOLDED TO

HCPCS	Description
	PATIENT MODEL
L4030	REPLACE QUADRILATERAL SOCKET BRIM, CUSTOM FITTED
L4040	REPLACE MOLDED THIGH LACER, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L4045	REPLACE NON-MOLDED THIGH LACER, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L4050	REPLACE MOLDED CALF LACER, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L4055	REPLACE NON-MOLDED CALF LACER, FOR CUSTOM FABRICATED ORTHOSIS ONLY
L4060	REPLACE HIGH ROLL CUFF
L4070	REPLACE PROXIMAL AND DISTAL UPRIGHT FOR KAFO
L4080	REPLACE METAL BANDS KAFO, PROXIMAL THIGH
L4090	REPLACE METAL BANDS KAFO-AFO, CALF OR DISTAL THIGH
L4100	REPLACE LEATHER CUFF KAFO, PROXIMAL THIGH
L4110	REPLACE LEATHER CUFF KAFO-AFO, CALF OR DISTAL THIGH
L4130	REPLACE PRETIBIAL SHELL
L4205	REPAIR OF ORTHOTIC DEVICE, LABOR COMPONENT, PER 15 MINUTES
L4210	REPAIR OF ORTHOTIC DEVICE, REPAIR OR REPLACE MINOR PARTS
L4350	ANKLE CONTROL ORTHOSIS, STIRRUP STYLE, RIGID, INCLUDES ANY TYPE INTERFACE (E.G., PNEUMATIC, GEL), PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L4360	WALKING BOOT, PNEUMATIC AND/OR VACUUM, WITH OR WITHOUT JOINTS, WITH OR WITHOUT INTERFACE MATERIAL, PREFABRICATED ITEM THAT HAS BEEN TRIMMED, BENT, MOLDED, ASSEMBLED, OR OTHERWISE CUSTOMIZED TO FIT A SPECIFIC PATIENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE
L4361	WALKING BOOT, PNEUMATIC AND/OR VACUUM, WITH OR WITHOUT JOINTS, WITH OR WITHOUT INTERFACE MATERIAL, PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L4370	PNEUMATIC FULL LEG SPLINT, PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L4386	WALKING BOOT, NON-PNEUMATIC, WITH OR WITHOUT JOINTS, WITH OR WITHOUT INTERFACE MATERIAL, PREFABRICATED ITEM THAT HAS BEEN TRIMMED, BENT, MOLDED, ASSEMBLED, OR OTHERWISE CUSTOMIZED TO FIT A SPECIFIC PATIENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE
L4387	WALKING BOOT, NON-PNEUMATIC, WITH OR WITHOUT JOINTS, WITH OR WITHOUT INTERFACE MATERIAL,

HCPCS	Description
	PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L4392	REPLACEMENT, SOFT INTERFACE MATERIAL, STATIC AFO
L4394	REPLACE SOFT INTERFACE MATERIAL, FOOT DROP SPLINT
L4396	STATIC OR DYNAMIC ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, INCLUDING SOFT INTERFACE MATERIAL, ADJUSTABLE FOR FIT, FOR POSITIONING, MAY BE USED FOR MINIMAL AMBULATION, PREFABRICATED ITEM THAT HAS BEEN TRIMMED, BENT, MOLDED, ASSEMBLED, OR OTHERWISE CUSTOMIZED TO FIT A SPECIFIC PATIENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE
L4397	STATIC OR DYNAMIC ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, INCLUDING SOFT INTERFACE MATERIAL, ADJUSTABLE FOR FIT, FOR POSITIONING, MAY BE USED FOR MINIMAL AMBULATION, PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L4398	FOOT DROP SPLINT, RECUMBENT POSITIONING DEVICE, PREFABRICATED, OFF-THE-SHELF
L4631	ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS, WALKING BOOT TYPE, VARUS/VALGUS CORRECTION, ROCKER BOTTOM, ANTERIOR TIBIAL SHELL, SOFT INTERFACE, CUSTOM ARCH SUPPORT, PLASTIC OR OTHER MATERIAL, INCLUDES STRAPS AND CLOSURES, CUSTOM FABRICATED

ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

Group 1 Paragraph: The presence of an ICD-10 code listed in this section is not sufficient by itself to assure coverage. Refer to the section on “Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity” for other coverage criteria and payment information.

For HCPCS codes L4392, L4396 and L4397:

Group 1 Codes:

ICD-10 Code	Description
M24.571	Contracture, right ankle
M24.572	Contracture, left ankle
M24.573	Contracture, unspecified ankle
M24.574	Contracture, right foot
M24.575	Contracture, left foot
M24.576	Contracture, unspecified foot
M72.2	Plantar fascial fibromatosis

Group 2 Paragraph: For HCPCS code L4631:

Group 2 Codes:

ICD-10 Code	Description
A52.16	Charcot's arthropathy (tabetic)
M14.661	Charcot's joint, right knee
M14.662	Charcot's joint, left knee
M14.669	Charcot's joint, unspecified knee
M14.671	Charcot's joint, right ankle and foot
M14.672	Charcot's joint, left ankle and foot
M14.679	Charcot's joint, unspecified ankle and foot

▼ Important Note:

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

▼ References

1. Aetna: Ankle Orthoses, Ankle-Foot Orthoses (AFOs), and Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis (KAFOs)
http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/500_599/0565.html
2. National Government Services, Inc. Jurisdiction B DME MAC, Ankle-Foot/Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis. Local Coverage Determination No. L33686 revised date October 1, 2015.
3. National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC). Ankle-Foot/Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis. Local Coverage Determination No. L33686. Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Carrier Jurisdiction A. Chico, CA: NHIC; revised October 1, 2015.
4. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare Coverage Database, National Coverage Documents; October 2015.
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Applicable URAC Standard

Core 8	Staff operational tools and support
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Change/Authorization History

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Prepared / Reviewed by	Approved by	Review Date:
A	11-20-06	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnoni	Ken Fasse	n/a
01	12-2008	Added A9283 to the policy as a non covered benefit	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	
02	03-31-09	Deleted L1901 from code range of AFO-KAFO used with ambulation. Revised: Code L4360 descriptor Deleted: Code L2860	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	
03	06-01-09	Deleted Code L2035 from the custom-fabricated orthoses list Deleted Codes K0628 and K0629 from the list used in diabetic foot problems management Added Codes A5512 and A5513 to the list used in diabetic foot problems management Added Code L4392 to list of codes rejected as incorrect coding when billed with initial issue of a base orthosis.	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	
04	06-01-09	Added KX modifier. Deleted L2770	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	

05	12-04-09	Non-medical necessity coverage and payment rules: Added information on code A9283. Coding guidelines: Revised: Instructions for coding A9283, L2770, Instructions for coding concentric adjustable torsion joints. Instructions for RT/LT modifiers.	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	
06		Annual review. No additional changes.	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	12-04-09
07	01-05-10	Added code: A4466 and description as non-covered. Changed narrative for L4396.	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	
08		Annual Review – no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	11-19-10
09	1-05-11	Added: preamble language. Revised: Clarified non coverage statements for L4392, L4394, L4396 and L4398. Coding Guidelines: Added: Definition of L4631. Revised: Clarified proper coding instructions based on brace use.	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	
10	07-19-11	Added Important Notes to the policy. Changed areas to “not reasonable and necessary versus not medically necessary”.	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	
11	11-7-11	Annual Review. Added References to Policy.	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	
12	04-03-12	Added reference to NH Medicaid	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	
13	11-26-12	Annual review – Deleted limitation pertaining to A9283 since it is referenced in the coding requirements section. Added statement that A9283 is a non-covered code.	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	November 2012
14	11-29-12	Changed narrative for L2005 to: Knee ankle foot orthosis, any material single or double upright, stance control, automatic lock and swing release, any type activation, including ankle joint, any type, custom fabrication.	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	Nov 12
15	06-18-13	Added criteria and reference for micro-processor controlled KAFOs.	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	
16	12-18-13	Annual review. Deleted height definition for codes L1900, L1910-L1990	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	Dec 2012

17	12-18-13	Annual Review. Descriptions/revised coding guidelines for Ankle Orthoses. L2340, L2340, L1906 & L1960.	Susan Glomb	Dr. Almasri	Dec2013
18	12-2-14	Annual Review. Added information for L4360, L4361, L4386 and L4387 Walking boots/criteria. Also, added L4397 Static or dynamic ankle foot orthosis, including soft interface material, adjustable for fit, for positioning, may be used for minimal ambulation, prefabricated, off-the-shelf.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
19	12-14-15	Annual Review. Updated policy with Medicare criteria. Updated with ICD-10 codes. References updated.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	