



NHS MEDICAL POLICY

Ankle-Foot Orthoses (AFO) DME 2014-007

An Ankle-Foot Orthosis (AFO) may be indicated when **ALL** the following are present:

1	The ordering provider has documented a specific process causing weakness or deformity of the foot and ankle and documented the deficit on physical examination.
2	The ordering provider has documented that stabilization is required for medical reasons.
3	The ordering provider has documented that the member is ambulatory and has the potential to benefit functionally.
4	The AFO is not prescribed solely for the prevention or treatment of a heel pressure ulcer.
5	The AFO is not prescribed solely for the treatment of edema.
6	The ordering provider has documented that the most cost-effective orthosis (prefabricated or off the shelf) was first considered and if that product cannot accommodate the needs of the member, a statement of why a custom orthosis is required has been provided.

SOURCES

1. Bono CM, Berberian WS. Orthotic devices. Degenerative disorders of the foot and ankle. Foot Ankle Clin. 2001;6(2):329-340.
2. Buonomo LJ, Klein JS, Keiper TL. Orthotic devices. Custom-made, prefabricated, and material selection. Foot Ankle Clin. 2001;6(2):249-252

CODE REFERENCE (This may not be a comprehensive list of codes to apply to this policy.)

L 1904, 1907, 1930, 1940, 1932, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1990,
L 4631 Charcot Restraint Orthotic Walker ("CROW boot")

POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

Date	Action/Description
09/25/2015	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
06/16/2016	Code L 4631 added
06/14/2017	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
06/13/2018	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
06/12/2019	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
06/11/2020	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
06/11/2021	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
06/10/2022	Annual review and approval by UM Committee
05/26/2023	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee
05/20/2024	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee
03/24/2025	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee