

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 6
TITLE: ORTHOTICS

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.900 and 17.901

RELATED REFERENCES: M-2, Part VIII, Chapter 3

I. DEFINITIONS

Orthotics are appliances 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 when medically necessary for the covered condition(s) and when provided by a VA Prosthetics Service or other authorized provider.

B. Covered orthotic devices include but are not limited to the following:

1. Cervical orthoses that treat cervical disease and injury by influencing the motion of the neck by assisting, resisting, blocking or unloading part of the head weight.

2. Spinal orthotics prescribed for scoliosis, and hyper/hypokyphosis or hyper/hypolordoses.

3. Upper-limb orthotics used to substitute for absent motor power, to assist weak segments, to support segments which require immobilization, to provide traction or for the attachment of devices. These are usually prescribed for the wrist, thumb, fingers, shoulder and elbow.

4. Lower-limb orthotics. These are used to substitute for absent motor power, to assist weak segments, to support segments that require immobilization, to provide traction or for the attachment of devices. These are usually prescribed for the hip, knee, ankle or any combination.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Replacement of an orthotic is covered when required due to growth or a change in the patient's condition. Replacement purchases will be reviewed for medical necessity. The claim should include:

1. physician's prescription for replacement, and
2. the reason the replacement is needed.

END OF POLICY