

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 17.6
TITLE: THERAPEUTIC SHOES FOR DIABETICS

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.2 and 32 CFR 199.4(d)(3)(ii)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

May 1, 1993

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

HCPCS codes A5500-A5511

III. POLICY

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

IV. LIMITATIONS

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

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/her 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 paragraph C is not available.

END OF POLICY