

## **Custom & Carbon AFO**

There are three essential documents necessary to obtain insurance coverage. The prescribing doctor's clinical notes with the proper details included is the most important of the three.

- 1) An Rx Pad prescription for the brace indicating the side the brace is for (right, left or bilateral). The Rx must be specific for Custom AFO or Carbon AFO.
- 2) A signed copy of the prescribing physician's clinical notes. The notes must include the justification for this brace. Please refer to item's 1-6 on the AFO documentation sheet. If the doctor does not include one of these 6 reasons in the clinical notes the patient will not qualify for the brace. The notes need to include appropriate side specific ICD-10 codes (drop foot, etc.)
- 3) A signed and dated Detailed Written Order. We will generate this and forward it to the ordering physician once we receive the first two items

## AFO DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

Medicare and the private insurance companies have created guidelines that demand specific documentation if a patient is to receive a custom AFO, otherwise the patient must be provided an 'off the shelf' AFO.

The following language was added to the Local Coverage Determination for AFOs/KAFOs effective for claims with a date of service on or after July 1, 2012:

**“For custom fabricated orthoses, there must be a detailed documentation in the treating physician’s records to support the medically necessity of a custom fabricated rather than a prefabricated orthosis. This information will be corroborated by the functional evaluation in the orthotist or prosthetists records. This information must be available upon request.”**

**\*PLEASE DO NOT MAKE SELECTIONS ON THIS FORM.\***

**Medicare considers these criteria as justification for a custom brace:**

- 1.) Is the expected length of use greater than 6 months?
- 2.) Will the brace need to control the foot and ankle in more than one plane (ex. Equino-varus/hypertonicity – a varus control AFO is often required)?
- 3.) Does the patient have a recently healed wound?
- 4.) Does the patient have a healing or recent fracture?
- 5.) Does the brace need to address an instability at the knee (ex. Recurvatum)?
- 6.) Is the patient a diabetic with potentially fragile skin?

**TO APPEASE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES \*\*PLEASE\*\* BE AS SPECIFIC & AS THOROUGH AS POSSIBLE IN DOCUMENTING THE DIAGNOSIS & SPECIFY “CUSTOM AFO” ON THE RX WHEN APPLICABLE \*\*THANK YOU\*\***