

## Orthotics-AFO/KAFO

Reference the [Look-Up Tool](#) to determine if a code requires a Service Authorization

### DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANUAL

COVERAGE AND LIMITATION CRITERIA AND POLICIES

EFFECTIVE: March 2007

REVISED: September 2025

### Ankle-Foot (AFO) /Knee-Ankle-Foot (KAFO) Orthosis

#### Indications and limitations of coverage and medical appropriateness:

Coverage is allowed if the following conditions are present:

- Contracture of the ankle with a reasonable expectation to correct the contracture, **or**
- Contracture is expected to interfere significantly with the member's functional abilities, **and/or**
- Used as a component of a therapy program that includes active stretching of the involved muscles and/or tendons, **and/or**
- Weakness or deformity of the foot and ankle that requires stabilization for medical reasons and has the potential to benefit functionally (i.e., foot drop), **and/or**
- KAFO is covered for ambulatory members for whom an AFO is covered, and when additional knee stability is required.

### AFO AND KAFO, CUSTOM

#### Indications and limitations of coverage and medical appropriateness:

Coverage is allowed if the following conditions are present:

- Any **one** of the listed conditions for an Ankle-Foot/Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis, **and**
- The member could not be fitted with a prefabricated AFO, **or**
- Condition necessitating the orthosis is expected to be permanent or lasting more than 6 months, **or**
- Documented neurological, circulatory, or orthopedic status that requires a model to prevent tissue injury, **or**
- The member has a healing fracture that lacks normal anatomical integrity, **or**
- There is a need to control the knee, ankle, or foot in more than one plane.

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- For a custom-fabricated orthosis, there **must** be documentation in the supplier's notes to support the medical necessity of that type of device rather than a prefabricated orthosis.
- When requesting code **L2999**, a **narrative description justifying the medical necessity, along with a copy of the manufacturer's invoice**, is required for manual pricing.
- Socks used in conjunction with an orthosis are covered. Limited to two every six months.

#### Replacement/Repair/Labor:

- The interface is covered if the AFO is allowed. Limited to a maximum of one per six months.
- A new service authorization is required if there is a change in the member's condition, irreparable accidental damage, or growth, along with supporting documentation.
- All labor involved in replacing an orthosis is included in the allowance for that component.
- If using a K0739, a required labor invoice that specifies units of labor for each HCPC requiring repair.

#### Documentation Requirements:

- The appropriate right and/or left modifier must be used when requesting an orthosis, additions, or repairs.
- RA/RB modifier is required for repair and/or replacement.
- A prescription from an ordering physician/practitioner.
- Physician/practitioner's documentation needs to address medical necessity.
- Physician/practitioner exam within 90 days of the service authorization start date.
- Supplemental documentation from other disciplines may be submitted as additional supporting documentation.

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- Documentation needs to clearly address the need for a CUSTOM orthotic, or it will be denied.

#### Non-Covered:

- Static AFO will be denied as not medically necessary if the contracture is fixed.
- A static AFO is non-covered when used solely for the prevention or treatment of pressure ulcers or the treatment of edema. No exceptions.

 <p><b>North Dakota</b>   Health &amp; Human Services Be Legendary.</p>		<p><b>Orthotics-AFO/KAFO</b></p> <p>Reference the <a href="#">Look-Up Tool</a> to determine if a code requires a Service Authorization</p>
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EFFECTIVE: March 2007		REVISED: September 2025
<b>Ankle-Foot (AFO) /Knee-Ankle-Foot (KAFO) Orthosis</b>		
<b>Date Revised</b>	<b>Revisions</b>	
January 2017	Reviewed and revised	
January 3, 2020	Reviewed. Added to Doc. Requirements bullet #2 RA, bullet #3 practitioner, bullet #4 practitioner, and bullet #5 Physician/practitioner exam within 90 days of the service authorization start date.	
November 23, 2022	Reviewed and reformatted. The header logo has been updated with a new logo.	
November 29, 2023	Reviewed and reformatted. No changes made.	
April 1, 2025	Reviewed and grammatical revision completed.	
September 11, 2025	Added the link to the Look-Up Tool to use to determine if code requires a service authorization.	