

Therapeutic Shoes and Inserts for Diabetes (for Indiana Only)

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[Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Medical Supplies, and Repairs/Replacements

Application

This Coverage Determination Guideline only applies to the state of Indiana.

Coverage Rationale

For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [Indiana Podiatry Services Provider Reference Module](#).

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Coding Clarifications:

- A depth shoe (A5500) is one that:
 - Has a full length, heel-to-toe filler that when removed provides a minimum of 3/16" of additional depth used to accommodate custom-molded or customized inserts; and
 - Is made from leather or other suitable material of equal quality; and
 - Has some form of shoe closure; and
 - Is available in full and half sizes with a minimum of three widths so that the sole is graded to the size and width of the upper portions of the shoe according to the American standard last sizing schedule or its equivalent. (The American last sizing schedule is the numerical shoe sizing system used for shoes in the United States.)
- The shoe may or may not have an internally seamless toe.
- A custom-molded shoe (A5501) is one that:
 - Is constructed over a positive model of the member's foot; and
 - Is made from leather or other suitable material of equal quality; and
 - Has removable inserts that can be altered or replaced as the member's condition warrants; and
 - Has some form of shoe closure.
- The shoe may or may not have an internally seamless toe.

- Code A5512 describes a total contact, multiple density, prefabricated removable inlay that is directly molded to the member's foot. Direct molded means it has been conformed by molding directly to match the plantar surface of the individual member's foot. Total contact means it makes and retains actual and continuous physical contact with the weight-bearing portions of the foot, including the arch throughout the standing and walking phases of gait.
- The A5512 insert must retain its shape during use for the life of the insert. The layer responsible for shape retention is called the "base layer" in the code descriptor. This material usually constitutes the bottom layer of the device and must be of a sufficient thickness and durometer to maintain its shape during use (i.e., at least 1/4 inch of 35 Shore A or higher or at least 3/16 inch of 40 Shore A or higher). The material responsible for maintaining the shape of the device must be heat moldable. The specified thickness of the base layer must extend from the heel through the distal metatarsals and may be absent at the toes.
- Code A5513 describes a total contact, custom fabricated, multiple density, removable inlay that is molded to a model of the member's foot so that it conforms to the plantar surface and makes total contact with the foot, including the arch. A custom fabricated device is made from materials that do not have predefined trim lines for heel cup height, arch height and length, or toe shape.
- The A5513 insert must retain its shape during use for the life of the insert. The base layer of the device must be at least 3/16 inch of 35 Shore A or higher material. The base layer is allowed to be thinner in the custom fabricated device because appropriate arch fill or other additional material will be layered up individually to maintain shape and achieve total contact and accommodate each member's specific needs. The central portion of the base layer of the heel may be thinner (but at least 1/16 inch) to allow for greater pressure reduction. The specified thickness of the lateral portions of the base layer must extend from the heel through the distal metatarsals and may be absent at the toes. The top layer of the device may be of a lower durometer and must also be heat moldable. The materials used should be suitable with regards to the member's condition.
- Code A5514 describes a total contact, custom fabricated, multiple density, removable inlay that is directly milled from a rectified virtual model of the member's foot so that it conforms to the plantar surface and makes total contact with the foot, including the arch. A custom fabricated device is made from materials that do not have predefined trim lines for heel cup height, arch height and length, or toe shape.
- The A5514 insert must retain its shape during use for the life of the insert. The base layer of the device must be at least 3/16 inch of 35 Shore A or higher material. The base layer is allowed to be thinner in the custom fabricated device because appropriate arch fill or other additional material will be layered up individually to maintain shape and achieve total contact and accommodate each member's specific needs. The central portion of the base layer of the heel may be thinner (but at least 1/16 inch) to allow for greater pressure reduction. The specified thickness of the lateral portions of the base layer must extend from the heel through the distal metatarsals and may be absent at the toes. The top layer of the device may be of a lower durometer and must also be heat moldable. The materials used should be suitable with regards to the member's condition.
- Rigid rocker bottoms (A5503) are exterior elevations with apex position for 51 percent to 75 percent distance measured from the back end of the heel. The apex is a narrowed or pointed end of an anatomical structure. The apex must be positioned behind the metatarsal heads and tapering off sharply to the front tip of the sole. Apex height helps to eliminate pressure at the metatarsal heads. Rigidity is ensured by the steel in the shoe. The heel of the shoe tapers off in the back in order to cause the heel to strike in the middle of the heel.
- Roller bottoms (sole or bar) (A5503) are the same as rocker bottoms, but the heel is tapered from the apex to the front tip of the sole.
- Wedges (posting) (A5504) are either of hind foot, fore foot, or both and may be in the middle or to the side. The function is to shift or transfer weight bearing upon standing or during ambulation to the opposite side for added support, stabilization, equalized weight distribution, or balance.
- Metatarsal bars (A5505) are exterior bars which are placed behind the metatarsal heads in order to remove pressure from the metatarsal heads. The bars are of various shapes, heights, and construction depending on the exact purpose.
- Offset heel (A5506) is a heel flanged at its base either in the middle, to the side, or a combination, that is then extended upward to the shoe in order to stabilize extreme positions of the hind foot.
- A deluxe feature (A5508) does not contribute to the therapeutic function of the shoe. It may include, but is not limited to style, color, or type of leather.
- Code A5507 is only to be used for not otherwise specified therapeutic modifications to the shoe or for repairs to a diabetic shoe(s).
- There are two categories of products that are billed with code A5513:
 - Inserts that are custom fabricated by a manufacturer/central fabrication facility and then sent to someone other than the member. These items may be billed using code A5513 only if they are listed on the PDAC web site.

- Inserts that are custom fabricated from raw materials that are dispensed directly to the member by the entity that fabricated the insert. These items do not have to be listed on the PDAC web site in order to be billed using code A5513. However, the supplier must provide a list of the materials that were used and a description of the custom fabrication process on request.
- The only products that may be billed using codes A5514 are those that are specified in the Product Classification List on the Pricing, Data Analysis, and Coding (PDAC) contractor web site.
- The standard exclusion for shoe orthotics & shoe inserts does not apply to the below codes.

HCPCS Code	Description
A5500	For diabetics only, fitting (including follow-up), custom preparation and supply of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe manufactured to accommodate multi-density insert(s), per shoe
A5501	For diabetics only, fitting (including follow-up), custom preparation and supply of shoe molded from cast(s) of patient's foot (custom molded shoe), per shoe
A5503	For diabetics only, modification (including fitting) of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe or custom-molded shoe with roller or rigid rocker bottom, per shoe
A5504	For diabetics only, modification (including fitting) of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe or custom-molded shoe with wedge(s), per shoe
A5505	For diabetics only, modification (including fitting) of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe or custom-molded shoe with metatarsal bar, per shoe
A5506	For diabetics only, modification (including fitting) of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe or custom-molded shoe with off-set heel(s), per shoe
A5507	For diabetics only, not otherwise specified modification (including fitting) of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe or custom-molded shoe, per shoe
A5508	For diabetics only, deluxe feature of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe or custom-molded shoe, per shoe
A5510	For diabetics only, direct formed, compression molded to patient's foot without external heat source, multiple-density insert(s) prefabricated, per shoe
A5512	For diabetics only, multiple density insert, direct formed, molded to foot after external heat source of 230 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, total contact with patient's foot, including arch, base layer minimum of 1/4 inch material of Shore A 35 durometer or 3/16 inch material of Shore A 40 durometer (or higher), prefabricated,
A5513	For diabetics only, multiple density insert, custom molded from model of patient's foot, total contact with patient's foot, including arch, base layer minimum of 3/16 inch material of Shore A 35 durometer (or higher), includes arch filler and other shaping material, custom fabricated, each
A5514	For diabetics only, multiple density insert, made by direct carving with CAM technology from a rectified CAD model created from a digitized scan of the patient, total contact with patient's foot, including arch, base layer minimum of 3/16 inch material of Shore A 35 durometer (or higher), includes arch filler and other shaping material, custom fabricated, each

Guideline History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
04/01/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Coverage Determination Guideline

Instructions for Use

This Coverage Determination Guideline provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this guideline, please check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its

Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Coverage Determination Guideline is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Coverage Determination Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.