

LCD for Ankle-Foot/Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis (L11527)

Revision Effective Date

For services performed on or after 02/04/2011

AFOs NOT USED DURING AMBULATION: An L4396 (Static or dynamic positioning ankle-foot orthosis) is covered if either all of criteria 1 – 4 or criterion 5 is met:

LCD Information

1. Plantar flexion contracture of the ankle (ICD-9 diagnosis code 718.47) with dorsiflexion on passive range of motion testing of at least 10 degrees (i.e., a nonfixed contracture); and,
2. Reasonable expectation of the ability to correct the contracture; and,
3. Contracture is interfering or expected to interfere significantly with the patient's functional abilities; and,
4. Used as a component of a therapy program which includes active stretching of the involved muscles and/or tendons.
5. The patient has plantar fasciitis (ICD-9 diagnosis code 728.71).

If an L4396 is used for the treatment of a plantar flexion contracture, the pre-treatment passive range of motion must be measured with a goniometer and documented in the medical record. There must be documentation of an appropriate stretching program carried out by professional staff (in a nursing facility) or caregiver (at home). An L4396 and replacement interface (L4392) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary if the contracture is fixed. Codes L4396 and L4392 will be denied as not reasonable and necessary for a patient with a foot drop but without an ankle flexion contracture. A component of a static/dynamic AFO that is used to address positioning of the knee or hip will be denied as not reasonable and necessary because the effectiveness of this type of component is not established.