

Physician Documentation Requirements for Therapeutic Shoes for Diabetic Patients

When providing diabetic shoes and inserts to Medicare participants, **the physician who treats the patient's diabetes** is required to complete and sign a statement of certifying physician (SCP) form stating all coverage requirements are met.



Before we can see the patient, the following must be received by Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics:

1. Document in your records that you are managing the patient's diabetes and specifically state he or she requires shoes and inserts
2. Document one of the conditions listed on the SCP form 3a-3f is present

Without this documentation, we cannot see your patient. At Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics, we realize this is additional paperwork and will only request necessary information to allow Medicare to reimburse for these items.

You can find a link to this medical policy at www.MaryFreeBedOandP.com/alerts.php or for more information, please call 616.242.0315.

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Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics Fits Conjoined Twins in Comfortable Custom Bed



The world's oldest conjoined twins are resting easier now after their new, custom-made bed was delivered in June.

Mary Free Bed physical therapists Mike Bolton and Matt Lefevre worked together to design and build a bed for the 58-year-old twins, allowing them to move in with their younger brother and his wife who will care for them as their health declines.

Previously, the twins spent most of their time on a queen-size mattress on the floor that their father had built for them years ago. The custom-made bed is their first since birth.

The twins were able to make do with the mattress for many years. As they grew older, simple tasks such as getting up to go to the bathroom became more difficult.

Fortunately, the new bed is helping to make things easier for the twins while providing them with more comfort than they have ever known. According to Lefevre, they spend about 23 hours per day in the bed, making both function and comfort important aspects of its construction.

"It's all about making life easier for them," Lefevre said. "Anything we could do to make them more comfortable would make them happier."

The new bed is raised from the ground so the twins can essentially slide off of it onto their feet. A power switch tilts the bed so they transfer from the bed more easily.

Bolton said this feature allows the twins to cut the time it takes to get out of bed in half. "It's the extra height that really makes the most difference." The new bed also has adjustable reclining backs and is made with pressure sensitive foam to keep the twins comfortable while providing them with support.

According to the twins' sister-in-law, since the bed was delivered the twins have gotten the best sleep they have ever had. Her hope is that the bed will not only give them a better life in the present, but also extend their lives.

Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics may be able to make a custom bed or other custom device for your patient. **For more information, please call our OrthoSEAT office at 616.242.0342.**



FES Systems Allow Patients with Foot Drop the Ability to Walk More Naturally

Patients suffering from foot drop due to injuries to the central nervous system may experience instability or difficulty walking. New functional electrical stimulation (FES) technologies are available at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital that are taking rehabilitation to a new level.

The NESS L300®, by Bioness, Inc., and the WalkAide®, by Innovative Neurotonics, use electrical stimulation to help patients regain mobility, physical independence, and productivity. Both products help those who suffer from central nervous system disorders as a result of stroke, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, or spinal cord injury, among others. By sending low level electrical impulses to nerves in the leg, the muscles in the foot are stimulated and lift the foot. The NESS L300 and the WalkAide produce a walking pattern that's more natural and efficient.

According to Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics satellites clinical manager, Mark Porth, these systems not only complement traditional therapies, but they also accelerate them. "FES systems at Mary Free Bed work with traditional therapies to ensure patients progress as quickly and efficiently as possible," Porth said.

The NESS L300 and the WalkAide help increase stability, improve circulation, reduce atrophy, improve voluntary control, and increase joint range of motion, all while producing a more natural, more efficient pattern of walking.

The three-part NESS L300 includes a stimulation cuff, a heel sensor, and a wireless remote, which work together to stimulate movement. Due to the device being triggered by the heel sensor, set up is relatively simple.

The WalkAide is a single, compact device. It uses a tilt sensor that's programmable using Walk Analyst software, eliminating the need for a heel sensor and allowing patients to use the device without wearing shoes.

These systems were not covered by most insurance companies in the past; however, as of 2009, there is a unique Medicare Healthcare Common Procedure

Coding System (HCPCS) code for electrical stimulators available to those who meet the conditions for coverage.

To be eligible for coverage by Medicare, a patient must be diagnosed with a spinal cord injury and demonstrate the following:

- Intact lower motor neuron units (L1 and below), both muscle and peripheral nerve involvement
- Muscle and joint stability for weight bearing in upper and lower extremities and balance and control in maintaining an upright support posture independently
- Brisk muscle contraction to neuromuscular electrical stimulation sufficient for muscle contraction
- Possess high motivation, commitment, and cognitive ability to use such devices for walking
- Ability to transfer independently and demonstrate independent standing tolerance for at least three minutes
- Hand and finger function to manipulate controls
- At least six months post spinal cord injury and post restorative surgery
- No hip and knee degenerative disease and no history of long bone fracture secondary to osteoporosis
- Willingness to use the device long term
- Completion of one-on-one training program with a physical therapist consisting of at least 32 sessions with the device over a period of three months in an inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, or an outpatient rehabilitation facility

Coverage by other insurance companies for some of the above mentioned weaknesses is also starting to occur. For more information, contact Mary Free Bed Orthotics directly at 616.242.0315.

While FES systems such as the NESS L300 and WalkAide can be beneficial for patients with central nervous system injuries, patients with the following should refrain from the use of such devices: history of falls, pacemaker, cardiac disease, seizures, obesity, and lower motor neuron injuries.

We are setting up a clinic day in each of our offices to allow patients to see if they can benefit from this new device. If interested, please have your patient contact the office nearest them to be seen in the clinic.

For a complete list of locations, visit our website at www.MaryFreeBedOandP.com, or call our Grand Rapids office at 616.242.0315.

KAFO Patients Get More Natural Gait Pattern with new E-MAG KAFO

The first E-MAG Active electronic stance control KAFO was recently fitted in Michigan for a Mary Free Bed Orthotics Department patient, helping her to achieve a more natural gait pattern.

For many years the patient ambulated using a KAFO with drop lock knee joints, allowing no movement in her knee and causing her to walk with a stiff leg.

This electronic stance control KAFO now helps to alleviate that problem by permitting the patient a more physiological heel strike, mid-stance, toe-off gait pattern, resulting in less stress on other areas of the body.

The E-MAG Active electronics contain a gyroscope to monitor the patient's gait pattern, unlocking the knee joint to facilitate a more natural gait pattern.

The device is ideal for patients with poliomyelitis, post polio syndrome, and other diagnoses resulting in paralysis/paresis of the knee extensors.

This electronic knee joint is unlike other stance control knee joints because it has no linkage or sensors below the knee for those patients who have limited or no ankle function.

For more information, please call our Orthotics Department at 616.242.0342.

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Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics will go electronic starting with our *O&P News* Spring 2011 issue.

2 Easy Ways to Continue Reading O&P News

1. Visit us online at www.MaryFreeBedOandP.com.
2. Send us your email address and we'll send the newsletter directly to your inbox. Please send your email address information to Stephanie at Stephanie.Millis@MaryFreeBed.com, or call 616.242.0305.

For more information or to make a suggestion for content you would like to see in our newsletter, please contact Stephanie Millis at 616.242.0305.

PECOS Update

The American Orthotics and Prosthetics Association (AOPA) reminds us that the implementation date for provider enrollment, chain, and ownership services (PECOS) enforcement was July 6, 2010.

Claims received on or after July 6, 2010 that are the result of a referral from a physician without a current PECOS enrollment file may be rejected. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has said that system edits may not be fully functional by this date and therefore claims resulting from ineligible referrals may be paid. However, once the system edits are in place, the durable medical equipment Medicare

administrative contractor (DME MAC) may reprocess these claims, resulting in overpayment requests.

CMS has said that it will continue to send informational notices to providers reminding them of the need to submit or update their enrollment and will work with the provider community to provide guidance on enrollment and will process all applications expeditiously. New residents that may be writing orders, must complete the PECOS enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding PECOS, please visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp.