



HITTENBERGER
orthotics and prosthetics llc



Custom Fabricated Ankle Foot Orthosis / Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis

For a custom fabricated ankle foot orthosis (AFO) to be covered by Medicare, all applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements must be met. This includes of the following:

- Documentation of a face to face appointment with the patient within six months of the written order.
- Letters of medical necessity are not accepted, Medicare does not consider a letter part of the medical record.
- All notes need to contain the physician's printed name, signature, patient name and date.
- Stamped, illegible signatures or notes are not accepted.
- Addendums need to be added to the prescribing physician.

The physician must document AND DISCUSS the following:

- Patient is ambulatory (or, if not currently ambulatory, the plan to progress the patient to ambulation); **and**
- Patient has a recent weakness or deformity of the knee, ankle and foot; **and**
- Patient requires stabilization of the knee, ankle and foot for medical reasons; **and**
- Patient has the potential to benefit functionally from the use of an AFO / KAFO; **and**
- Why a custom fabricated orthosis is medically necessary instead of a custom fit orthosis

The physician must also document AND DISCUSS at least one of the following:

- The condition necessitating the orthosis is expected to be permanent or of longstanding duration (more than 6 months); **or**,
- There is a need to control the knee, ankle or foot in more than one plane; **or**,
- The beneficiary has a documented neurological, circulatory, or orthopedic status that requires custom fabricating over a model to prevent tissue injury; **or**,
- The beneficiary has a healing fracture which lacks normal anatomical integrity or anthropometric proportions. Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Additional information is available at

<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jddme/policies/documentation-checklists>

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns

Hittenberger Orthotics and Prosthetics, LLC
181 Lynch Creek Way, Suite 101, Petaluma, CA 94954
1111 Sonoma Ave., Suite 320, Santa Rosa CA 95405
1125 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Kentfield, CA 94904

T.707.765.1122, T.415.499.1122, F.707.765.4571
www.hittenberger.com

