

## C-Brace

# Orthotist's Guide to Justification

September 24, 2018

## Verify Insurance

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- Confirm where you can find the medical coverage policies that the patient's **plan** uses.
- Download the Orthotic medical coverage policy and identify the coverage criteria.
- Some payers require C-Brace candidates to meet their Lower Limb Microprocessor prosthetic policy, so we recommend reviewing that as well.
- Also review the exclusions in the patient's plan summary (or benefit summary). Search for words such as deluxe, electronic, bionic, and microprocessor.
- If the coverage policy or plan summary has an exclusion for electronic devices or considers them investigational, you will need to ask for an exception in the preauthorization request.

## Thorough Evaluation

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- Complete Evaluation Form – Part B
- Document timed walk tests, self-reported outcome measures, manual muscle test results; family, living, and job situation depicting the daily ambulation and activity needs of the patient.
- If your patient has a progressive neurological condition, you will want to gather manual muscle test results taken in the past 3-5 years – and use that information to confirm slow progression of the disease and convince the payer that patient will be able to use the device for long term. Any new tests should be taken early in the day to avoid false reading due to fatigue.
- Include feedback from the patient during trial use of C-Brace (e.g. daily usage of C Brace versus usage of the previous device).
- Document why other devices (e.g. locked KAFO, stance control orthosis, etc.) are not suitable–(see Ruling out Less Costly Devices).
- Create (with the patient) an Activity Chart to compare C-Brace to patient's current device. Put this chart in your medical record and use the information in your cover letter. Patient should also discuss the activities with the ordering physician (see Activity Chart and Activity Chart Guide).

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#### Pre-authorization Request Letter:

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- ➔ With most insurance payers, a letter/template will **not** stand on its own. There must be other medical documentation (physician, rehabilitation, home health, etc.), including your own documentation to corroborate the information in your letter.
- ➔ State a clear objective.
  - Example: “Keep the patient ambulatory and independent, and prevent him/her from becoming wheelchair-dependent for as long as possible.”
- ➔ Leverage your professional knowledge to build a chain of arguments specific to your patient that is difficult to deny.
  - Include arguments based on patient’s prior and current activities as well as goals for future activities.
  - Discuss why the other devices will not allow patient to achieve his/her goals.
- ➔ Every hour invested in the initial justification will save multiple hours should you have to deal with a denial/appeal.

#### If you decide to include videos:

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- ➔ Shoot videos without a device and/or using the current device and reshoot the video with patient using the C-Brace in the exact same situations for direct comparison of the effects of the new device.
- ➔ Focus on the features and benefits of C-Brace that your patient can do better with C-Brace.
- ➔ Shoot videos early in the day when patient is not fatigued.

#### If you need help:

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- ➔ Contact the Ottobock Reimbursement Team
  - Call 800-328-4058 and ask for reimbursement, or
  - Email your request to [Reimbursement911@Ottobock.com](mailto:Reimbursement911@Ottobock.com)