

Orthotic Reimbursement

An overview and recommendations

Presented by Columbus Hand Therapy

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Therapy Manager

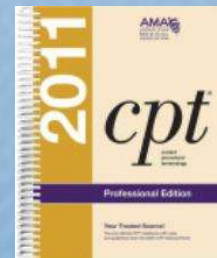
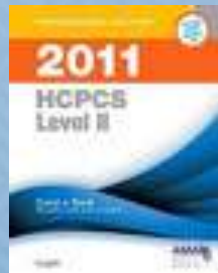
Learn the lexicon

- HCPCS? CPT? L-code? L3792? SEWHFO?
WHO? DMEPOS? L3921? PECOS? CFFBTSS?

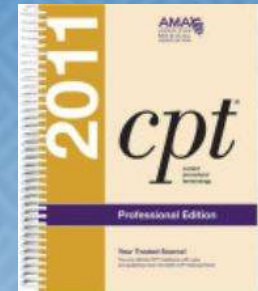
ΔΟΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΣΟΥΝΔ ΛΙΚΕ
ΓΡΕΕΚ ΤΟ ΨΟΥ??

CPT & HCPCS

- Defined by the AMA
- Annual updates

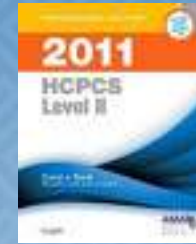


CPT



- Common procedural terminology
- Included most therapy procedures
- Subject to change, but infrequently

HCPCS



- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
- DME section
- Orthotics found in the L-code section of the DME section
- L3650 to L3999 are where most upper extremity orthotic codes are defined

CMS

- CMS defines orthoses and sets the fee schedule for the L-codes. See below for the definitions of the different type of orthoses described by CMS.

CMS Orthotic descriptors

- In 2006, CMS collaborated with the ASHT L code task force to create a new set of L codes that accurately described the orthotics that hand therapists make as part of their therapeutic interventions.

Definition of orthotic

- Orthosis is the proper term that applies to a custom fabricated brace/splint.
- Medicare considers an orthosis a rigid or semi-rigid device that supports a weak or deformed body member, or restricts or eliminates motion in a diseased or injured part of the body.

Definition of orthotic

- Orthosis is the singular noun for a custom molded or pre-fabricated support. Orthoses is the plural noun for two or more custom molded or prefabricated supports. Orthotic is the adjective.

2011 NEW TERMINOLOGY

- **“Splint:** refers to casts and strapping used for reductions of fractures and dislocations.
- **Note:** The term “Splinting” should not be used by therapists that are fabricating or issuing orthoses. The term is used by physician offices for applying a cast. There are CPT codes for splinting that are used when billing for this service.”

Rehabilitation of the Hand and Upper Extremity, Sixth Edition



- Uses orthotic/orthosis/orthoses to describe what usually has been called splinting.

Requirements

- Medicare covered orthoses must be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.
- Orthoses require a prescription and/or certificate of medical necessity signed by a physician

L-Codes can change

- CMS updates Orthotic section Quarterly
- National Government Services (NGS) updates via “Connections” publication

Types of orthoses

- Pre-fabricated
- Custom fitted
- Custom fabricated



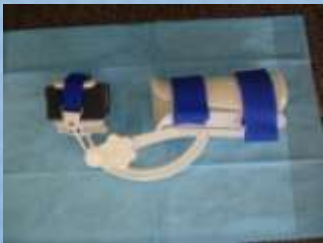
Prefabricated /Off-The-shelf:

- Orthoses which requires minimal self adjustment for appropriate use and do not require expertise in trimming, bending, molding, assembling, or customizing to fit the beneficiary.



Custom Fitted:

- A prefabricated device, which is manufactured in quantity without a specific patient in mind. The device may, or may not, be supplied as a kit that requires some assembly and/or fitting and adjustment.



Custom fitted examples: Exos



Custom Fabricated:

- A custom fabricated item is one that is individually made for a specific patient. No other patient would be able to use this item. A custom fabricated item is a device which is fabricated based on clinically derived and rectified castings, tracings, measurements, and/or other images of the body part (such as x-rays).

Custom fabricated examples:



Can include custom fitted and custom fabricated



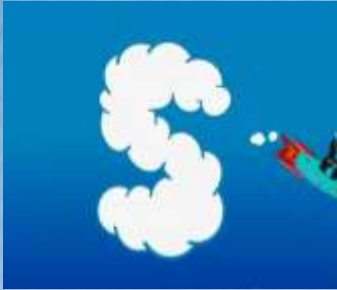
Custom Fitted vs. Fabricated

- Important to know the difference when clinically documenting the orthotic
- L codes do not currently have a separation of custom fitted vs. custom fabricated

Why use L-codes vs. CPTs

- L-codes reimbursement rates are better
 - L-codes help identify the accredited therapist
 - L-codes best describe what client receives
-
- 97760 is the CPT for orthotic fitting and training but should not be used in place of L-codes or at the same time/encounter

SEWHFO decoded



Shoulder



Hand



Elbow



Finger



Wrist



Orthosis

Some L-codes for



- L3975, SEWHFO, (Static) shoulder cap design, without joints.



- L3671 SO, (Static) shoulder joint design, without joints, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment.



Commonly used L-codes



- L3763: Elbow/wrist/hand orthosis (EWH) rigid, without joints, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment
- L3764: Elbow/wrist/hand orthosis, includes one or more nontorsion joints, elastic bands, turnbuckles, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment
- L3766: same as L3764 but includes fingers



L3763 Elbow/wrist/hand orthosis



L3766 EWHF



Commonly used L-codes



L3806 WHFO (dynamic/ SP)



- L3806: Wrist/hand/finger orthosis, includes one or more nontorsion joints, turnbuckles, elastic bands/springs, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment



L3807 Prefabricated

- L3807 wrist hand finger orthosis, without joints, prefabricated, includes fitting and adjustment, any type



L3808 WHFO (static)



L3808 WHFO (static)



L3906



- Wrist hand orthosis, without joints, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment
- Wrist cock up fits here



Lose the W



Common hand-based orthotic codes



- L3913 Hand finger orthosis, without joints, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment

Common hand-based orthotic codes



- L3913 Hand finger orthosis, without joints, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment

Common hand/finger orthotic codes



- L3921 hand finger orthosis, includes one or more nontorsion joints, elastic bands, turnbuckles, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment

Hand/finger



- L3921: Wrist/hand/finger orthosis, includes one or more nontorsion joints, turnbuckles, elastic bands/springs, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment



Finger orthotics



- L3933 Finger orthosis, without joints, may include soft interface, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment

L3764 JAS elbow

- L3764 Elbow wrist hand orthosis, includes one or more nontorsion joints, elastic bands, turnbuckles, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment

L3905 JAS Wrist

- L3905 Wrist hand orthosis, includes one or more nontorsion joints, elastic bands, turnbuckles, may include soft interface, straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment

L3900 Stat-a-dyne WHFO

- L3900 Wrist hand finger orthosis, dynamic flexor hinge, reciprocal wrist extension/flexion, finger flexion/extension, wrist or finger driven, custom fabricated.

RESOURCES:

ASHT Member section

- Has a good listing of L-codes along with pictures of different orthotics



ASHT - American Society of Hand Therapists - About ASHT.mht

Resources:

- CPT and HCPCS books
 - MAKE SURE YOU USE CURRENT YEAR
 - CHECK QUARTERLY FOR CHANGES

