Policy:

VCHCP considers an orthopedic footwear including shoes, inserts and modification to shoes for individuals who do not have diabetes, medically necessary only in the limited circumstances described below:

1. Shoes are considered medically necessary if they are an integral part of a covered leg brace.
2. Heel replacements, sole replacements and shoe transfers involving shoes on a covered brace are also considered medically necessary.
3. Inserts and other shoe modifications (such as lifts, wedges, arch supports and other additions) are considered medically necessary if they are on a shoe that is an integral part of a covered brace and if they are medically necessary for the proper functioning of the brace.
4. Prosthetic shoes are considered medically necessary if they are an integral part of a prosthesis for individuals with a partial foot amputation.

This guideline does not address shoes, inserts and modifications for selected individuals with diabetes for the prevention or treatment of diabetic foot ulcers.

VCHCP considers the following not medically necessary:

1. Orthopedic footwear that does not meet the criteria above is considered not medically necessary.
2. A matching shoe that is not attached to a brace and items related to that shoe are considered not medically necessary.
3. Shoes are considered not medically necessary when they are put on over partial foot prosthesis or other lower extremity prosthesis that is attached to the residual limb by other mechanisms.

Discussion/General Information

This clinical guideline is based on Medicare criteria

A. Attachment : None

B:  Author/Reviewer: Sheldon Haas MD  11-05-07
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    Reviewed by Albert Reeves MD Date: 11/1/11
    Committee Review: UM on 11/10/11 & QA on 11/22/11
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Committee Review: UM on 2/14/13; QA on 2/26/13
Reviewed/ No Changes: Catherine Sanders, MD
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C. References

