

# University of Michigan Orthopedic shoes and orthotic inserts



Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
of Michigan

A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee  
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## Applies to:

Medicare Plus Blue PPO<sup>SM</sup>  Medicare Plus Blue Group PPO<sup>SM</sup>  Both

## Orthopedic shoes and orthotic shoe inserts

Orthopedic shoes and orthotic shoe inserts intend to correct an abnormal or irregular walking pattern by slightly altering the angles at which the foot strikes a walking or running surface.

## Original Medicare

Original Medicare Part B covers the furnishing and fitting of either orthopedic shoes or orthotic shoe inserts each calendar year, if you have diabetes and severe diabetic foot disease:

- One pair of custom-molded shoes and inserts
- One pair of extra-depth shoes

Medicare also covers:

- Two additional pairs of inserts each calendar year for custom-molded shoes
- Three additional pairs of inserts each calendar year for extra-depth shoes

Medicare will cover the orthopedic shoes only as a part of a leg brace. Heel replacements and shoe transfers involving shoes on a covered brace are also covered. Inserts and other shoe modifications are covered 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. Shoes and related modifications, inserts, heel/sole replacements or shoe transfers billed without a KX modifier will be denied as noncovered because coverage is statutorily excluded.

Medicare lists the following devices as orthotics under the heading of Durable Medical Equipment (DME):

- Bracing for ankle, foot, knee, back, neck, spine, hand, wrist, elbow
- Orthopedic shoes as a necessary part of a leg brace
- Prosthetic devices like artificial limbs.

## University of Michigan

Medicare Plus Blue is a Medicare Advantage plan that provides at least the same level of benefit coverage as Original Medicare (Part A and Part B) and may provide enhanced benefits beyond the scope of Original Medicare within a single health care plan. This flexibility allows Blue Cross to offer enriched plans by using Original Medicare as the base program and adding desired benefit options.

Coverage up to 100% of the approved amount for orthopedic shoes and orthotic shoe inserts is provided to members of the University of Michigan Medicare Plus Blue plan. Because Original Medicare only covers 80% of this service, the scope of benefit, reimbursement methodology, maximum payment amounts, and the member's cost sharing are determined by the group.

**Note:** This enhanced benefit does not require the orthotic shoe to be attached to a leg brace.

# Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

[bcbsm.com/providers](https://bcbsm.com/providers)

## Conditions for payment

The table below specifies payment conditions for orthotic shoes and inserts.

Conditions for payment	
Eligible provider	No restrictions
Payable location	No restrictions
Frequency	No restrictions
CPT/HCPCS codes	L3000 - L3649
Diagnosis restrictions	No restrictions
Age restrictions	None

## Reimbursement

Medicare Plus Blue plans' maximum payment amount to providers for annual physical examinations is available on our provider website on the Medicare Plus Blue enhanced benefits **fee schedule**. The provider will be paid the lesser of the allowed amount or the provider's charge, minus the member's cost share. This represents payment in full and providers aren't allowed to bill the member for the difference between the allowed amount and the charge.

## Member cost sharing

Services are covered up to 100% of the approved amount.

## Billing instructions for providers

1. Bill services on the CMS 1500 (02/12) claim form, UB 04 or the 837 equivalent claim form.
2. Use the Medicare Advantage PPO unique billing requirements.
3. Report CPT/HCPCS codes and diagnosis codes to the highest level of specificity.
4. Report your National Provider Identifier number on all claims.
5. Submit claims to your local Blue Cross plan.
6. Use electronic billing:
  - a. Michigan providers  
Copies of the ANSI ASCX 12N 837 and 835 Institutional Health Care Claim Payment/Advice (Blue Cross Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Institutional 837/835 Companion Documents) are available on the Blue Cross website under the reference library section at [bcbsm.com/providers/help/edi](https://bcbsm.com/providers/help/edi).
  - b. Providers outside of Michigan should contact their local Blue Cross plan.

## Revision history

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Reviewed:

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