



## **OFF THE SHELF AFO**

There are three documents necessary to provide an AFO

- 1) An Rx pad prescription for the AFO (side specific or bilateral)
- 2) A signed copy of the prescribing physician's clinical notes. The notes must include the reason/medical need for the brace (drop foot, etc.) and appropriate **side specific ICD-10 codes** should be given.
- 3) A signed and dated Detailed Written Order. We will generate this form and forward it to the ordering physician once we receive the first two items.

## AFO DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

Medicare and the private insurance companies have created guidelines that demand specific documentation if a patient is to receive a custom AFO, otherwise the patient must be provided an 'off the shelf' AFO.

The following language was added to the Local Coverage Determination for AFOs/KAFOs effective for claims with a date of service on or after July 1, 2012:

**“For custom fabricated orthoses, there must be a detailed documentation in the treating physician’s records to support the medically necessity of a custom fabricated rather than a prefabricated orthosis. This information will be corroborated by the functional evaluation in the orthotist or prosthetists records. This information must be available upon request.”**

**\*PLEASE DO NOT MAKE SELECTIONS ON THIS FORM.\***

**Medicare considers these criteria as justification for a custom brace:**

- 1.) Is the expected length of use greater than 6 months?
- 2.) Will the brace need to control the foot and ankle in more than one plane (ex. Equino-varus/hypertonicity – a varus control AFO is often required)?
- 3.) Does the patient have a recently healed wound?
- 4.) Does the patient have a healing or recent fracture?
- 5.) Does the brace need to address an instability at the knee (ex. Recurvatum)?
- 6.) Is the patient a diabetic with potentially fragile skin?

**TO APPEASE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES \*\*PLEASE\*\* BE AS SPECIFIC & AS THOROUGH AS POSSIBLE IN DOCUMENTING THE DIAGNOSIS & SPECIFY “CUSTOM AFO” ON THE RX WHEN APPLICABLE \*\*THANK YOU\*\***