

DME For the Diabetic Foot

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Editorial Advisory Board, *WOUNDS*

Board of Directors, American Society of Podiatric Surgeons

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APMA Coding Committee

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Discussion Topics

- DME Products/Benefits
- Product Coding
- Documentation Requirements
- Patient Value
- Practice Management Value

Calcium Alginates

- Brown seaweed
- Highly absorbent
- Must document moderate to heavy drainage
- Do not combine with hydrogels
- Available in different shapes / sizes
- Interacts with wound exudate to form a moist gel
- May use in infected wounds
- Requires a Secondary Dressing

Calcium Alginates cont..

- Cost: About \$2 / piece for small size
- Reimbursement: \$8-\$9 / piece
- Up to 30 pieces per month per wound allowed
- Example:
- \$6 profit per piece x 30 pieces =
\$180 profit /month/patient

Calcium Alginate Codes

- A6196 < 16 sq. in., each dressing
- A6197 > 16 sq. in. and < 48 sq. in., each dressing

Foams

- Highly absorbent
- Must document moderate to heavy drainage
- Bordered and non-bordered
- Can be a filler in dead space
- Do not combine with hydrogels
- Primary or secondary dressing (Must Document Necessity)

Foams cont..

- Up to 12 pieces per wound per month allowed
- Cost: About \$2 per unit
- Reimbursement: About \$10 per unit
- Example:
- \$8 profit per piece x 12 pieces =
\$96 profit/month/patient

Foam Pad Codes

- A6209: Foam pads *without* adhesive borders 16 square inches or less
- A6212: Foam pads *with* adhesive borders 16 square inches or less
- A6210: Foam pads *without* adhesive borders >16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in.
- A6213: Foam pads *with* adhesive borders >16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in.

Collagens

- Enhances wound contracture
- Enhances cellular migration
- Lacking in chronic wounds
- Helps recruit fibroblasts
- Attracts monocytes
- Acts as a sacrificial substrate to MMPs

Collagens

- Absorbent, conformable and nonadherent
- Document mild, moderate, or heavy drainage
- Available in pads, particles, powders, paste and ribbons/strips
- Can use in different types of wounds
- Provide matrix for tissue and vessel growth
- Requires a Secondary Dressing

Collagen Pads

- Up to 30 pieces per wound per month allowed
- Cost: About \$10 / piece
- Reimbursement: About \$23 /piece
- Example:
- \$13 profit per piece x 30 pieces =
\$390 profit/month/patient

Collagen Pad Codes

- A6021 – Collagen dressing <16 sq. cm., per pad
- A6022 – Collagen dressing >16 square inches and less than or equal to 48 square inches per pad dispensed

Collagen Powders

- Up to 30 grams per wound per month
- Cost About \$12 per gram
- Reimbursement : About \$34 per gram
- Example:
- \$22 profit per gram x 30 grams/month =
\$660 profit/month/patient

Collagen Powder Code

- A6010 - Collagen powder, per gram

Hydrogels

- Must document zero to light drainage
- Available in different forms
- Helps maintain a moist healing environment
- Maceration possible – be careful!

Hydrogels

- Available in different forms:
 - Hydrogel impregnated gauze pads
 - Hydrogel wound cover with adhesive border
 - Hydrogel wound cover without adhesive border
 - Gel form (wound filler)
 - May require secondary dressing

Hydrogel Impregnated Gauze Pads

- A6231 for each pad 16 sq. in. or less
- A6232 for each pad greater than 16 sq. in., but less than or equal to 48 sq. in.
- May dispense up to 30/month

Hydrogel Wound Covers Without Adhesive Border

- A6242 - 16 sq. in. or less per pad
- A6243 - Greater than 16 sq. in., but less than or equal to 48 sq. in. per pad

Hydrogel Wound Covers With Adhesive Border


- A6245 - each pad that is 16 sq. in. or less
- A6246 for each pad greater than 16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in.

Hydrogels Gel

- Normally a wound filler
- A6248 per fluid ounce dispensed

Hydrogel Impregnated Gauze Pad Example

- Gauze: up to 30 pieces per wound per month allowed
- Cost: About \$3 per piece
- Reimbursement: About \$6 per piece
- $\$3 \text{ profit per piece} \times 30 \text{ grams/month} =$
\$90 profit /month / patient

WOUND CARE PRODUCT GUIDE 			
	Minimal Drainage Stage III, IV/Full Thickness	Moderate Drainage Stage III, IV/Full Thickness	Heavy Drainage Stage III, IV/Full Thickness
ALGINATES Up to 30/wound/month		MODERATE & HEAVY DRAINAGE ONLY	
COLLAGENS Up to 30 pads or grams/wound/month	GEL	PAD/POWDER/PARTICLE	
FOAMS Up to 12/wound/month		MODERATE & HEAVY DRAINAGE ONLY	
HYDROCOLLOIDS Up to 12 sheets or 3oz./wound/month	MINIMAL & MODERATE DRAINAGE ONLY		
HYDROGELS Up to 30 pads or 3oz./wound/month	SHEETS AND GAUZE	GEL	

Practice Management

- One exuding wound requiring collagen powder per week
- Cost About \$12 per gram
- Reimbursement: About \$34 per gram
- \$22 profit per gram x 30 grams/month = \$660 profit
- One wound per week = \$34,320/year

Cost Effectiveness

- 873 patients received collagen dressing
- 101 received saline gauze treatment
- After 2 months of treatment:
- Collagen group =
 - 95% healed
 - Total cost of \$2,145
- Saline gauze group =
 - 7% healed
 - Total cost of \$7,350

Snyder RJ, Richter D, Hill ME. Ostomy Wound Manage. 2010; 56 Suppl 11A:S9-S15

Why Provide DME?

- 31% of Rx's never picked up
- eRx 65% more likely to never be picked up



"Why Patients Won't Fill Your Prescriptions" <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/830616>
 "Understanding Prescription Abandonment" - <https://cvshealth.com/thought-leadership/cvs-health-research-institute/understanding-prescription-abandonment>

Why Provide DME? cont...

- Patients Value the Convenience
- Continuity of Care
- Insures Recommended Products are Sourced
- Treatment Plan can Begin Immediately
- Documentation **SHOULD** Already be Completed...

Wound Supplies covered by Medicare Part B if:

- They are Medically Necessary
- When debridement of a wound is medically necessary and it was debrided
- They are used in the treatment of a wound caused by or treated by a surgical procedure
- Wound must be full thickness
- Drainage is documented

Documentation

- Type of wound
- Presence/absence of necrotic tissue
- Wound location, Size, and Depth
- Amount of Drainage
- Has the wound been debrided
- Instrument for debridement
- Anesthesia used. If not, why not?
- Depth of debridement
- Depth of debridement – pre and post debridement measurements
- Dressings applied in office
- Treatment Plan

Documentation cont...

- Type of dressing dispensed
- Dressing size
- Number of dressings dispensed
- Number of wounds being treated
- Frequency of dressing changes
- Anticipated duration of dressing requirement

Always Have...

- Proof of Delivery (POD)
- Supplier Standards
- Warranty
- Instructions
- Rx in Chart
- Place of Service – Home (12)

HCFA 1500

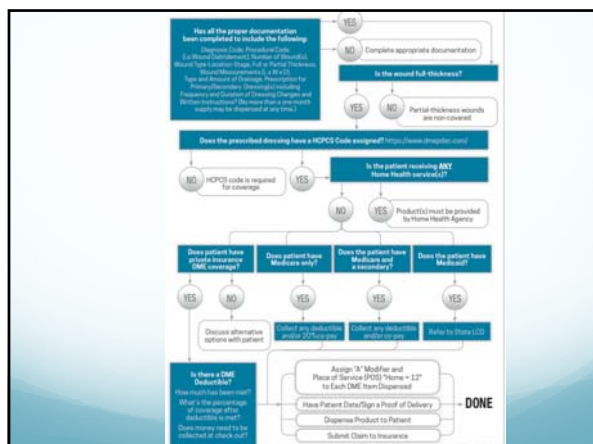
- Box 24A - Date patient receives Surgical Dressing
- Box 24D - CPT Code for procedure performed AND on separate line "HCPCS" code
- Box 24F - \$ CHARGES for supplies dispensed.
- Box 24G – Number of units dispensed to the patient.

Indicate # of Wounds Being Treated

- "A_"
- In Box 24D Modifier of the HCFA 1500 form
- If one wound being treated: A1
- If two wounds being treated: A2
- If three wounds being treated: A3
- If four wounds being treated.....
- Do not use with A6531, A6532, A6545

Not Covered if...

- Part A stay (SNF)
- Hospice
- Home health care



Total Contact Cast

- CPT 29445
- Q4038 - Cast supplies, short leg cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4037 - Cast supplies, short leg cast, adult (11 years +), plaster



Charcot Restraint Orthotic Walker (CROW)

- Custom fit
- Transfers weight to anterior leg and knee
- 2 plastic or fiberglass clam shell pieces with custom, removable foam insole
- Fully enclosed AFO with rocker bottom
- Code: L4631
- DMEPOS Fee Ceiling \$1,701.53



Prefabricated Pneumatic Walking Boot

- L4361
- DMEPOS Fee Ceiling: \$319.75



Walking Boot, Non-Pneumatic, With Or Without Joints, With Or Without Interface Material, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf

- L4387



- L4361 and L4386 are ankle-foot orthosis that are referred to as walking boots.
- Walking boots are covered for immobilization for an orthopedic condition or following orthopedic surgery.
- Walking boots not covered when used primarily to relieve pressure to plantar foot or for foot ulcers.

Orthopedic Conditions

- Charcot
- Osteoarthritis
- Tarsal Coalition
- Flatfoot
- Tendinitis, Tibial
- Tendinitis, Peroneal

LCDs with a KX Modifier Requirement

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| • Ankle-Foot/Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis | • Orthopedic Footwear |
| • Automatic External Defibrillators | • Patient Lifts |
| • Cervical Traction Devices | • Positive Airway Pressure Devices |
| • Commodes | • Power Mobility Devices |
| • External Infusion Pumps | • Pressure Reducing Support Surfaces |
| • Glucose Monitors | • Refractive Lenses |
| • High Frequency Chest Wall Oscillation Devices | • Respiratory Assist Devices |
| • Hospital Beds | • Speech Generating Devices |
| • Immunosuppressive Drugs | • Therapeutic Shoes for Persons with Diabetes |
| • Knee Orthoses | • Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulators |
| • Manual Wheelchair Bases | • Urological Supplies |
| • Nebulizers | • Walkers |
| • Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Devices | • Wheelchair Options and Accessories |
| • Oral Antiemetic Drugs | • Wheelchair Seating |
| • Oral Appliances for Obstructive Sleep Apnea | |

Compression Garments

- To be covered must have:
 - Open venous stasis ulcer
 - Had debridement
 - Compression between 30-50 mmHg
- Must use AW modifier
- Must use LT / RT modifier(s)

A6545

- Gradient compression wrap, non-elastic below knee, 30-50 mm hg, each



A6531

- Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mmHg, each
- Cost = About \$15
- Reimbursement = About \$45



A6532

- Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40-50 mmHg, each
- Cost = About \$30
- Reimbursement = About \$63



Thank You!!



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