

Family Foot & Ankle Care, P.C.

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Physicians & Surgeons of the Foot & Ankle

Medical Foot Care — Guidelines

Non-routine Foot Care

Non-routine foot care is defined as “care and treatment of the foot including the surgical treatment of bone problems, fractures, dislocations, surgical removal of the toenails, treatment of infections and ulcers, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of symptomatic conditions such as osteoarthritis, bursitis, tendonitis and capsulitis.” Non-routine foot care is covered by Medicare.

Routine Foot Care

Routine foot care is defined as “care and treatment of the foot including the removal or corns, callouses, trimming of nails (including mycotic nails) hygienic and preventative care of the feet.” Routine foot care is usually not covered by Medicare.

Note: The initial diagnostic procedures and/or treatment for a specific symptom or patient complaint is covered even if the resulting diagnosis is not MCM 4120.1

Provisional Coverage of Routine Foot Care and/or Treatment of Mycotic Nails

A. Systemic Conditions

Medicare payment may be made for routine foot care such as cutting or trimming of nails, corns or callouses, debridement of mycotic nails when the patient has a systemic disease of sufficient severity that performance of such procedure by a non-professional person would be hazardous.

The following metabolic, neurological and peripheral vascular disease (synonyms in parenthesis) represent some systemic conditions. Where the patient's condition is one of those designated by an asterick (*), routine procedures are covered only if the patient is under the active care of a physician.

- Arteriosclerosis (A.S.O., Arteriosclerosis of the extremities, Occlusive Peripheral Arteriosclerosis)
- Buerger's Disease (Thromboanglitis Obliterans)
- Chronic Thrombophlebitis*
- Diabetes Mellitus*, Diabetes Decipiens, Diabetes Hepatogenous, Diabetes Intermittens, Lancereau's Diabetes and True Diabetes
- Peripheral Neuropathics involving the feet:
 - Carcinoma*
 - Diabetes Mellitus*
 - Drugs and Toxins
 - Hereditary disorders, i.e., Hereditary Sensory Radicular Neuropathy, Angiokeratoma Corporis Diffisum (Fabry's) Amyloid Neuropathy
 - Leprosy or Neurosyphillis
 - Malnutrition and Vitamin Deficiency Malnutrition, Malabsorption, Pernicious Anemia, Alchoholism*
 - Multiple Sclerosis*
 - Traumatic Injury
 - Uremia (Chronic Renal Disease)*

General diagnoses such as Arteriosclerotic heart disease, circulatory problems, vascular disease, venous insufficiency are not sufficient to permit payment for routine foot care. Likewise, incapacitating injuries or illnesses such as Rheumatoid Arthritis, CVA (Stroke), fractured hip are not diagnoses for which routine foot care is payable.

Claims without a specific covered diagnosis will be denied.

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