



Medicare's qualification process for Therapeutic Shoes and Inserts for Persons with Diabetes

Q: What is the QUICKEST way to qualify so I can get an appointment to be seen at Tierney Orthotics and Prosthetics?

1. Set up a “diabetes follow-up visit” with your MD or DO (not a NP or PA)
2. Ask the MD/DO to document the first 2 qualifying statements (**see below in green**) in the visit note.
3. The provider also would look at your feet and document ANY of the six qualifying foot conditions (**see below in blue**) in the visit note.
4. Have the MD/DO send us a prescription for diabetic shoes and inserts along with his/her office visit note. We will review the notes and will call you to set up an initial evaluation appointment if documentation is sufficient.

Q: What does Tierney need from your provider(s) in order to provide therapeutic shoes and inserts?

Qualifying Diabetes Follow-up Notes

Medicare requires us to obtain a specific set of records from the doctor that treats you / follows you for diabetes. The doctor has to see you in a FACE-TO-FACE visit for the reason being DIABETES FOLLOW-UP. The notes from this visit have to be within the past four months so we will have time to get your shoes delivered. ALL of the following needs to be written in these notes:

Qualifying Statements (notes must state first 2 AND #3 if you are seen by NP/PA):

1. **This patient has diabetes and has been, and continues to be seen in follow-up under a comprehensive management program for diabetes**
AND
2. **Because this patient has diabetes and foot complications attributed to diabetes, this patient requires therapeutic shoes and inserts. This is now part of the comprehensive treatment plan.**
AND
3. **If you see an NP or PA for this Diabetes Follow-up Visit, the NP/PA notes have to be reviewed by their Certifying MD or DO. The Certifying MD/DO must state “I agree with this medical record and the actions taken that pertain to the provision of the therapeutic shoes”. This Certifying MD/DO must sign and date these notes as well.**

Qualifying Foot Exam Notes

Medicare requires us to obtain records that document you have an approved foot condition. A physician has to see you in a FACE-TO-FACE visit where they look at your feet and document in their notes ONE of these six conditions:

Six Qualifying Foot Conditions (foot notes must state at least one):

- 1. Previous amputation of part of the foot. Indicate which part of the which foot, OR**
- 2. History of previous foot ulceration of either foot, OR**
- 3. History of pre-ulcerative calluses of either foot, OR**
- 4. Peripheral neuropathy with evidence of callus formation of either foot, OR**
- 5. Foot deformity of either foot. Indicate type of deformity and which foot, OR**
- 6. Poor circulation in either foot. The exact nature of the poor circulation must be indicated, such as peripheral vascular disease. Edema is not a qualifying condition.**

This foot exam can be done by your Certifying MD/DO, a podiatrist, other MD/DO, NP, PA, or clinical nurse specialist. This specialist will be your Referring Physician and this doctor CAN write a prescription for diabetic shoes.

Your Certifying MD/DO, if different, must review, sign, and date these foot exam notes in order to be compliant with Medicare standards.

Certifying Physician Statement Form

Tierney O&P will request this form from your Certifying MD/DO after we have reviewed and approved the above mentioned doctor's note(s).

Detailed Written Order

Once we have reviewed these qualifying notes and they are sufficient, we will call you and set up an initial evaluation appointment. We will measure you for shoes and evaluate you for shoe inserts. Once we have determined the different products needed, we will send your Referring Physician a request for a Detailed Written Order.