

## Classification Algorithm – Overview of Criteria

### Determining Proper Coding of Prefabricated Orthotics

The following question and answer relates to whether a prefabricated orthotic is properly billed using a code for a custom fitted orthotic versus one furnished off-the-shelf and does not address medical necessity for the item. The descriptors for the HCPCS codes for custom fitted orthotics include the following nomenclature:

- Off-the-shelf (OTS) - Prefabricated item that requires minimal self-adjustment such as being trimmed, bent, molded, assembled, or otherwise adjusted to fit the beneficiary. Minimal self-adjustment does not require the expertise of a certified orthotist or an individual with equivalent expertise.
- Custom fitted - Prefabricated item that requires substantial modification e.g., has been trimmed, bent, molded, assembled, or otherwise customized to fit a specific patient by certified orthotist or an individual with equivalent expertise.

Question: Is the prefabricated orthotic furnished with custom fitting that is and can only be provided by an individual with expertise or furnished off-the-shelf (OTS)?

Answer: Classification depends on (1) what must be done at final fitting and (2) who must do it. Expertise of a qualified practitioner and substantial modification at the time of delivery qualify the items for classification as custom fitted. Fail either one of these criteria and the item is classified as off-the-shelf.

### How to Decide What Code Type for Prefabricated Orthotic

