



MEDICARE

Part A Intermediary
Part B Carrier
DME Regional Carrier

June 9, 2004

Larry Schwartz, President
Apex Foot Health Industries, Inc.
414 Alfred Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Re: Aetrex High Performance Walker-Lace Closure (Models X821, X801)
Aetrex High Performance Runner-Lace Closure (Model X521)
Aetrex High Performance Walker-Triple Velcro Closure (Models X923, X903)

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

The SADMERC and the four Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) have completed the HCPCS Coding Verification Review on June 7, 2004 for the above listed product(s) manufactured by your company. This review resulted in a consensus coding decision.

It is our determination that the Aetrex High Performance Walker-Lace Closure (Models X821, X801), Aetrex High Performance Runner-Lace Closure (Model X521) and Aetrex High Performance Walker-Triple Velcro Closure (Models X923, X903), meet the description for a therapeutic shoe as defined in the DMERC Medical Policy for Therapeutic Shoes for Diabetics. Therefore, the correct Medicare billing code(s) for the product(s) is/are

A5500 For diabetics only, fitting (including follow-up) custom preparation and supply of off-the-shelf depth-inlay shoe manufacturer to accommodate multi-density insert(s), per shoe.

This HCPCS coding decision applies to the submitted product(s) as presented to and reviewed by the SADMERC and four DMERCs. Any modifications to this product could change the HCPCS code and would need to be reviewed for coding verification. The assignment of a HCPCS code to this product should in no way be construed as an approval or endorsement of this product by SADMERC or Medicare, nor does it imply or guarantee claim reimbursement or coverage. For questions regarding claim coverage or reimbursement please contact your regional DMERC.

Should you disagree with this coding decision, a re-review of the product(s) can be initiated. The SADMERC will provide a re-review if the request is made within 45 days of the date of this letter and additional documentation is provided supporting the request. If a request for a re-review is made after 45 days, the request is treated as a new Coding Verification Review and a complete application must be submitted along with the additional documentation supporting the request.

If you have any questions regarding this coding decision, please contact me at the address below or by telephone at (803) 763-7373.

Sincerely,

Janice Neely, RN
HCPCS Medical Analyst
SADMERC

cc: DMERCs