



Last Approved 10/16/2023

Effective 12/1/2023

Next Review 10/15/2024

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| Area | Medical Policy |
| Lines Of Business | Self-Funded |

Spinal Orthoses for Scoliosis

PURPOSE:

This policy is designed to address the medical necessity criteria for spinal orthoses/braces related to the treatment of scoliosis.

DEFINITIONS:

Scoliosis: Scoliosis is defined as curvature of the spine in the coronal plane. It is accompanied by a variable degree of rotation of the spinal column. By convention, $>10^\circ$ of curvature (as measured by the Cobb angle) defines scoliosis. The direction (right or left) of a scoliotic curve is defined by the curve's convexity. The location is defined by the apical vertebra (the one that most deviated and rotated from midline).

Risser sign of skeletal maturity: The iliac apophysis ossifies in a stepwise fashion from anterolateral to posteromedial along the iliac crest. The Risser sign is a visual grading of the degree to which the iliac apophysis has undergone ossification and fusion; it is used to assess skeletal maturity. Risser grade 0 corresponds to no ossification. As depicted above, grade 1 describes up to 25 percent ossification; grade 2 describes 26 to 50 percent ossification; grade 3 describes 51 to 75 percent ossification; grade 4 describes greater than 76 percent ossification; and grade 5 describes full bony fusion of the apophysis.

PROCEDURE:

The following orthoses/braces may be considered medically necessary in individuals with scoliosis:

- Boston scoliosis brace (custom or prefabricated)
- Charleston scoliosis brace
- Milwaukee scoliosis brace
- Providence brace
- Rigo-Cheneau brace
- Risser jacket
- Standard thoracolumbosacral orthosis (TLSO).

The above braces may be considered medically necessary in any of the following instances:

- In skeletally immature individuals with an idiopathic spinal curve $\geq 25^\circ$ and $< 50^\circ$, and a Risser grade of 0 to 3; OR
- In skeletally immature individuals with an idiopathic spinal curve $\geq 20^\circ$ and $\leq 24^\circ$ with a documented progression of 5° or more over at least 6 month period, and Risser grade of 0 or 1.

Contraindications to bracing in scoliosis:

- Little growth remaining or skeletal maturity (Risser grade 3 to 5 or Sanders stage 5 to 8)
- Cobb angle $\geq 50^\circ$
- Cobb angle $< 20^\circ$

The use of spinal orthosis in the treatment of scoliosis not meeting the above criteria is considered not medically necessary.

CODING:

Procedure Codes:

| HCPCS Code | Description |
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| L0999 | Addition to spinal orthosis, not otherwise specified (Note: This code should be used only if a more specific code is unavailable.) |
| L1000 | Cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) (Milwaukee), inclusive of furnishing initial orthotic, including model |
| L1001 | Cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO), immobilizer, infant size, prefabricated, includes fitting and adjustment |
| L1005 | Tension based scoliosis orthosis and accessory pads, includes fitting and adjustment |
| L1010 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, axilla sling |
| L1020 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, kyphosis pad |
| L1025 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, kyphosis pad, floating |
| L1030 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, lumbar bolster pad |
| L1040 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, lumbar or lumbar rib pad |
| L1050 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, sternal pad |
| L1060 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, thoracic pad |
| L1070 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, trapezius sling |
| L1080 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, outrigger |
| L1085 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, outrigger, bilateral with vertical extensions |

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| L1090 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, lumbar sling |
| L1100 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, ring flange, plastic or leather |
| L1110 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO) or scoliosis orthosis, ring flange, plastic or leather, molded to patient model |
| L1120 | Addition to cervical-thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (CTLSO), scoliosis orthosis, cover for upright, each |
| L1200 | Thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), inclusive of furnishing initial orthosis only |
| L1210 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), lateral thoracic extension |
| L1220 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), anterior thoracic extension |
| L1230 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), Milwaukee type superstructure |
| L1240 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), lumbar derotation pad |
| L1250 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), anterior ASIS pad |
| L1260 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), anterior thoracic derotation pad |
| L1270 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), abdominal pad |
| L1280 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), rib gusset (elastic), each |
| L1290 | Addition to thoracic-lumbar-sacral orthosis (TLSO), (low profile), lateral trochanteric pad |
| L1300 | Other scoliosis procedure, body jacket molded to patient model |
| L1310 | Other scoliosis procedure, postoperative body jacket |
| L1499 | Spinal orthosis, not otherwise specified |
| 29010 | Application of Risser jacket, localizer, body; only |

Diagnosis Codes:

| ICD-10 Code | Description |
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| M41.00 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, site unspecified |
| M41.02 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, cervical region |
| M41.03 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, cervicothoracic region |
| M41.04 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, thoracic region |
| M41.05 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, thoracolumbar region |
| M41.06 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, lumbar region |
| M41.07 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, lumbosacral region |
| M41.08 | Infantile idiopathic scoliosis, sacral and sacrococcygeal region |
| M41.112 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, cervical region |
| M41.113 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, cervicothoracic region |

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| M41.114 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, thoracic region |
| M41.115 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, thoracolumbar region |
| M41.116 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, lumbar region |
| M41.117 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, lumbosacral region |
| M41.119 | Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis, site unspecified |
| M41.122 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, cervical region |
| M41.123 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, cervicothoracic region |
| M41.124 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, thoracic region |
| M41.125 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, thoracolumbar region |
| M41.126 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, lumbar region |
| M41.127 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, lumbosacral region |
| M41.129 | Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, site unspecified |
| M41.20 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, site unspecified |
| M41.22 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, cervical region |
| M41.23 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, cervicothoracic region |
| M41.24 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, thoracic region |
| M41.25 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, thoracolumbar region |
| M41.26 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, lumbar region |
| M41.27 | Other idiopathic scoliosis, lumbosacral region |

Additional Coding and Billing Guidelines:

Both L0999 and L1499 should only be used if an alternative HCPCS Level II or a CPT code better describes the service being reported. This code should be used only if a more specific code is unavailable. Use of these two codes when more specific codes are available is considered incorrect coding (unbundling). Additionally, L1499 and L0999 should not be used as base codes for a scoliosis orthosis.

HCPCS codes L1005, L1300, and L1310 are all inclusive and do not have any associated add-on codes. The use of addition codes with these three codes will be considered incorrect coding (unbundling).

Add-on codes for L1000 and L1200 may be denied as not separately payable if billed without the appropriate base code.

Any custom molded brace, such as Rigo Cheneau, is best described by HCPCS code L1300.

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POLICY HISTORY:

| Date | Description |
|-----------|--|
| 9/27/2023 | Annual Review: Updated formatting. Removed "between" from the ranges of angles in the Procedure section and replaced with ">=" and "<". Added contraindications and not medically necessary statement to Procedure section. Corrected typos. Updated references. |

POST-PAYMENT AUDIT STATEMENT:

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by THP at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

DISCLAIMER:

This policy is intended to serve as a guideline only and does not constitute medical advice, any guarantee of

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All Revision Dates

10/16/2023, 12/16/2022