



## PROVIDER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### COMPRESSIVE ORTHOSES FOR CORRECTION OF PECTUS CARINATUM AND EXCAVATUM

The purpose of this document is to assist providers enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) with the information needed to support a medical necessity determination for the use of compressive orthoses to correct pectus carinatum. By clarifying the information needed for prior authorization of services, HUSKY Health hopes to facilitate timely review of requests so that individuals obtain the medically necessary care they need as quickly as possible.

Pectus carinatum is a chest wall deformity caused by overgrowth of the sternum and costal cartilage resulting in an outward protrusion of the sternum. Chondrogladiolar prominence, also known as “chicken breast” or “keel chest”, is the most common type of deformity where the middle and lower portions of the sternum protrude and arch forward. The costal cartilages are concave and usually symmetrically depressed, accentuating the sternal prominence. Chondromanubrial prominence, also known as “pigeon breast” is a more complex and substantially less common form of the deformity where the upper portion of the sternum protrudes anteriorly, and the body of the sternum is deviated posteriorly.

Pectus carinatum is typically noted in childhood and usually worsens during adolescence. Pectus carinatum is primarily a cosmetic concern. When cardiopulmonary function is assessed in patients with pectus carinatum, the findings are generally normal. Pulmonary function tests, chest x-rays and echocardiographs are useful in determining the presence and extent of any cardiopulmonary compromise.

Until recently, the primary treatment for pectus carinatum was surgical reconstruction of the chest wall, however studies suggest that non-operative bracing with a compression orthosis may be an effective, non-invasive treatment modality for mild or moderate forms of the deformity.

Pectus excavatum is a congenital deformity in which the sternum and rib cage grow abnormally resulting in a “caved-in” or sunken appearance of the chest. While the sunken breastbone is often noticeable shortly after birth, the severity of pectus excavatum typically worsens during adolescence. Pectus excavatum is primarily a cosmetic concern. Surgery is generally reserved for individuals with moderate to severe signs and symptoms due to compression of the heart and lungs.

Note: Requests for surgical correction of pectus carinatum and excavatum are reviewed using McKesson’s InterQual® criteria in conjunction with the Department of Social Services’ (DSS) definition of Medical Necessity.

#### CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Coverage guidelines for the use of compressive orthoses to correct pectus carinatum are made in accordance with the Department of Social Services (DSS) definition of Medical Necessity. The following criteria are guidelines only. Coverage determinations are based on an assessment of the individual and their clinical needs. If the guidelines conflict with the definition of Medical Necessity, the definition of Medical Necessity shall prevail. The guidelines are as follows:

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Please note that authorization is based on medical necessity at the time the authorization is issued and is not a guarantee of payment. Payment is based on the individual having active coverage, benefits and policies in effect at the time of service.

To determine if a service or procedure requires prior authorization, CMAP Providers may refer to the *Benefit and Authorization Grids* summaries on [www.ct.gov/husky](http://www.ct.gov/husky) by clicking on “For Providers” followed by “Benefit Grids”. For a definitive list of benefits and service limitations, CMAP Providers may access the CMAP provider fee schedules and regulations at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com).

Use of a compressive orthosis to correct mild or moderate pectus carinatum is generally considered medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

1. The costal cartilage has been assessed and found to be flexible (typically individuals up to age 16); AND
2. Recent radiologic studies have ruled out a diagnosis of scoliosis; AND
3. The individual is willing to adhere to a strict bracing regimen; AND
4. There is evidence of cardiopulmonary compromise as demonstrated by:
  - a. Pulmonary functions tests suggesting obstructive abnormalities; AND
  - b. Chest x-ray demonstrating an increased anteroposterior diameter of the chest wall, emphysematous appearing lungs, and a narrow cardiac shadow; OR
  - c. Echocardiography demonstrating deformity of the cardiac silhouette.

The use of a compressive orthosis to correct pectus excavatum is generally considered investigational and therefore not medically necessary as there is insufficient evidence supporting clinical efficacy.

**NOTE: EPSDT Special Provision**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid enrollees under 21 years of age where the service or good is medically necessary health care to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified through a screening examination. The applicable definition of medical necessity is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-259b (2011) [ref. CMAP Provider Bulletin PB 2011-36].

**PROCEDURE**

Prior authorization for compressive orthoses to correct pectus carinatum is required. Coverage determinations will be based upon a review of requested and/or submitted case-specific information.

**The following information is needed to review requests for compressive orthoses to correct pectus carinatum:**

1. Fully completed Outpatient Prior Authorization Request Form or fully completed authorization request via on-line web portal;
2. A prescription from a licensed physician enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP);
3. Clinical information supporting the medical necessity of the treatment i.e. orthopedic evaluation, results of a manual compressive test to evaluate the flexibility of the costal cartilage, pulmonary function studies, imaging; echocardiogram;
4. Pricing information (Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC) and breakdown of labor\*); and
5. Other information as requested.

\*Ref: DSS Pricing Policy for MEDS items available at:

[http://www.huskyhealthct.org/providers/policies\\_procedures.html#](http://www.huskyhealthct.org/providers/policies_procedures.html#)

**NOTE:** Labor costs for future visits and future modifications will not be included in the initial cost of the orthosis. All future modifications are to be billed using HCPCS code L4205 – Repair of orthotic device, labor component, per 15 minutes. Providers are allowed to bill 2 units for subsequent follow up visits.

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## EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy is effective for prior authorization requests for compressive orthoses to correct pectus carinatum for individuals covered under the HUSKY Health Program beginning August 1, 2017.

## LIMITATIONS

N/A

## CODES:

Code	Description
L1499	Spinal orthotic, not otherwise specified
L4205	Repair of orthotic device, labor component, per 15 minutes

## DEFINITIONS

1. **HUSKY A:** Connecticut children and their parents or a relative caregiver; and pregnant women may qualify for HUSKY A (also known as Medicaid). Income limits apply.
2. **HUSKY B:** Uninsured children under the age of 19 in higher income households may be eligible for HUSKY B (also known as the Children's Health Insurance Program) depending on their family income level. Family cost-sharing may apply.
3. **HUSKY C:** Connecticut residents who are age 65 or older or residents who are ages 18-64 and who are blind, or have another disability, may qualify for Medicaid coverage under HUSKY C (this includes Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect), if working). Income and asset limits apply.
4. **HUSKY D:** Connecticut residents who are ages 19-64 without dependent children and who: (1) do not qualify for HUSKY A; (2) do not receive Medicare; and (3) are not pregnant, may qualify for HUSKY D (also known as Medicaid for the Lowest-Income populations).
5. **HUSKY Health Program:** The HUSKY A, HUSKY B, HUSKY C, HUSKY D and HUSKY Limited Benefit programs, collectively.
6. **HUSKY Limited Benefit Program or HUSKY, LBP:** Connecticut's implementation of limited health insurance coverage under Medicaid for individuals with tuberculosis or for family planning purposes and such coverage is substantially less than the full Medicaid coverage.
7. **Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity:** (as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 17b-259b) Those health services required to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate or ameliorate an individual's medical condition, including mental illness, or its effects, in order to attain or maintain the individual's achievable health and independent functioning provided such services are: (1) Consistent with generally-accepted standards of medical practice that are defined as standards that are based on (A) credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, (B) recommendations of a physician-specialty society, (C) the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and (D) any other relevant factors; (2) clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, timing, site, extent and duration and considered effective for the individual's illness, injury or disease; (3) not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the individual's health care provider or other health care providers; (4) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of the individual's illness, injury or disease; and (5) based on an assessment of the individual and his or her medical condition.
8. **Prior Authorization:** A process for approving covered services prior to the delivery of the service or

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initiation of the plan of care based on a determination by CHNCT as to whether the requested service is medically necessary.

**RESOURCES AND REFERENCES:**

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Care Procedural Coding System Level II Manual: 2018
- Egan, JC, Dubois JJ, Morphy M, et al. Compressive orthotics in the treatment of asymmetric pectus carinatum: a preliminary report with an objective radiographic marker. *J Pediatr Surg* 2000; 35:1183.
- Fonkalsrud EW, Anselmo DM. Less extensive techniques for repair of pectus carinatum: the undertreated chest deformity. *J Am Coll Surg* 2004; 198:898.
- Frey AS, Garcia VF, Brown RL, et al. Nonoperative management of pectus carinatum. *J Pediatr Surg* 2006; 41:40.
- Lee RT, Moorman S, Schneider M, Sigalet DL. Bracing is an effective therapy for pectus carinatum: interim results. *J Pediatr Surg* 2013; 48:184.
- Lee SY, Lee SJ, Jeon CW, et al. Effect of the compressive brace in pectus carinatum. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2008; 34:146.
- Nuchtern, J., Mayer, O. (2017). Pectus Carinatum. In G. Redding (Ed.), *UpToDate*. Retrieved from <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/search>
- Mayer, O. (2017). Pectus Excavatum: Treatment. In G. Redding (Ed.), *UpToDate*. Retrieved from <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/search>

**PUBLICATION HISTORY**

Status	Date	Action Taken
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