

Medical Coverage Policies

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Cranial Orthotics (Cranial Banding, Soft-Shell Helmets)

EFFECTIVE DATE	03/01/2007	LAST UPDATED	03/01/2007
RELATED POLICIES	Surgical Treatment for Craniosynostosis		

Description:

Plagiocephaly, which refers to an asymmetrically shaped head, can be subdivided into synostotic and non-synostotic types. Synostotic plagiocephaly describes an asymmetrically shaped head due to premature closure of the sutures of the cranium. In plagiocephaly without synostosis, the sutures remain open. Plagiocephaly without synostosis, also called positional or deformational plagiocephaly, can be secondary to various environmental factors including, but not limited to, premature birth, restrictive intrauterine environment, birth trauma, torticollis, cervical anomalies, and sleeping position.

A non-surgical treatment for deformational plagiocephaly is adjustable banding, which may be referred to as dynamic orthotic cranioplasty (DOC). Adjustable banding involves use of a custom-molded orthotic, either a helmet or band that can progressively mold the shape of the cranium by applying corrective forces to the frontal and occipital prominences, while leaving room for growth in the adjacent flattened areas. Treatment is typically initiated around five to six months of age, frequently after a prior trial of repositioning therapy, and continues for an average of four to five months. Both helmets and cranial bands are recommended for wear 23 hours per day, with 1 hour off for skin care and hygiene.

Medical Criteria:

Not applicable, this is a reimbursement policy.

Policy:

Cranial remolding orthosis is a covered benefit for the treatment of deformational plagiocephaly and does not require preauthorization.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate benefit booklet, subscriber agreement or, RlTe Care contract for the applicable durable medical equipment benefits/coverage.

Coding:

HCPCS:
S1040

Also known as:

Positional plagiocephaly
Non-synostotic plagiocephaly
Deformational plagiocephaly
Dynamic orthotic plagiocephaly (DOC)

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have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions.

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