

Hand and Foot Surgeries, Surgical 52

Table of Content

[Description & Definitions](#)
[Criteria](#)
[Document History](#)
[Coding](#)
[Special Notes](#)
[References](#)
[Keywords](#)

[Effective Date](#) 3/1992
[Next Review Date](#) 2/2026
[Coverage Policy](#) Surgical 52
[Version](#) 8

Member-specific benefits take precedence over medical policy and benefits may vary across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for details ^{*}.

Description & Definitions:

Surgical procedures performed on the hand and foot as treatment for conditions after failed medical management.

Criteria:

Foot surgeries are considered medically necessary for **1 or more of the following**:

- Bunionectomy with **all of the** following:
 - Symptomatic bunion (hallux valgus or bunionette ("tailor's bunion")) as indicated by **1 or more of the following**:
 - Ulceration at first metatarsophalangeal joint
 - Difficulty walking because of pain at first metatarsophalangeal joint
 - Inability to accommodate or modify footwear to control pain
 - Avulsion fracture of proximal phalanx
 - Malunion or nonunion of prior surgery
 - Non-operative therapy (e.g., shoe modification, bunion shield, splinting) has been tried and failed
- First Metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint arthroplasty using silastic implants with **all of the** following:
 - End stage hallux rigidus
 - Arthrodesis (gold standard) is not feasible
- Metacarpophalangeal (MCP) or proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joint implants with **all of the** following:
 - Individual remains symptomatic despite conservative medical management with **one or more** of the following diagnoses:
 - Symptomatic rheumatoid arthritis
 - Systemic lupus erythematosus
 - Osteoarthritis
 - Post-traumatic arthritis
 - Digit deformity does not allow for proper hand function and interferes with activities of daily living
 - Hand joint surgery is for **one or more** of the following:
 - MCP joint implants (Ascension or Integra PyroCarbon) for Total Joint of the index, long, ring, and small finger when reconstruction of the soft tissue can provide adequate stabilization

- Individual expects to use hands under a high-load situation postoperatively and **one or more** of the following:
 - PIP joint implants (Ascension) when soft tissue and bone can provide adequate stabilization and fixation
 - MCP and PIP joint implants (Avanta) when soft tissue and bone can provide adequate stabilization and fixation
- Silicone-elastomer MCP and PIP total joint implants.

Hand and Foot surgeries are **Not Medically Necessary** for **ANY** of the following as current role remains uncertain based on review of existing evidence:

- PIP joint arthroplasty with CapFlex-PIP implant
- Carpometacarpal (CMC) joint implants
- Distal interphalangeal (DIP) joint implants/splints, to include In2Bones Duafit interphalangeal implant and the X-Fuse Implant
- Interpositional arthroplasty of the first metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint with **ANY** of the following:
 - Biologic spacers (eg. InterPhlex interdigital implant)
 - Regenerative tissue matrix (e.g., Graftjacket)
 - Total or hemi prosthesis or implant (e.g., the Moje implant ceramic prosthesis, AnaToemic Phalangeal hemi-prosthesis, Arthrex MTP joint implant, METIS prosthesis, OsteoMed ReFlexion 1st MTP implant system, ToeFit-plus Prosthesis, Cartiva, etc.)
 - Bioabsorbable poly-L-D-Lactic acid Regjoint implant
 - Fascia lata allograft implant
- Replacement of tarsal metatarsal (TMT) joint
- Resurfacing arthroplasty of the PIP joint
- PIP joint arthroplasty with the Tactys prosthesis
- Subtalar arthroereisis
- Trapeziometacarpal (TMC) joint implants

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2025: February – Added codes and criteria for hand surgery. Updated to new format.
- 2021: January, August
- 2020: August
- 2015: June
- 2014: June
- 2013: June
- 2010: August
- 2009: June
- 2007: July (taken out of archive), October
- 2003: November-Archived
- 2002: October

Reviewed Dates:

- 2024: January
- 2023: January
- 2022: January
- 2018: September
- 2017: November
- 2016: June
- 2012: August
- 2011: August
- 2007: August, September
- 2000: September

Effective Date:

- March 1992

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
28289	Hallux rigidus correction with cheilectomy, debridement and capsular release of the first metatarsophalangeal joint; without implant
28291	Hallux rigidus correction with cheilectomy, debridement and capsular release of the first metatarsophalangeal joint; with implant
28292	Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with resection of proximal phalanx base, when performed, any method
28295	Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with proximal metatarsal osteotomy, any method
28296	Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with distal metatarsal osteotomy, any method
28297	Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with first metatarsal and medial cuneiform joint arthrodesis, any method
28298	Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with proximal phalanx osteotomy, any method
28299	Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with double osteotomy, any method
L8630	Metacarpophalangeal joint implant
L8631	Metacarpal phalangeal joint replacement, two or more pieces, metal (e.g., stainless steel or cobalt chrome), ceramic-like material (e.g., pyrocarbon), for surgical implantation (all sizes, includes entire system)
L8642	Hallux implant
L8658	Interphalangeal joint spacer, silicone or equal, each
L8659	Interphalangeal finger joint replacement, two or more pieces, metal (e.g., stainless steel or cobalt chrome), ceramic-like material (e.g., pyrocarbon) for surgical implantation, any size

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
28899	Unlisted procedure, foot or toes (If used for Interpositional arthroplasty of the first metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint)
29799	Unlisted procedure, casting or strapping
0335T	Insertion of sinus tarsi implant
0510T	Removal of sinus tarsi implant
0511T	Removal and reinsertion of sinus tarsi implant
S2117	Arthroereisis, subtalar
L8641	Metatarsal joint implant

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - approved only products only.

The preceding codes are included above for informational purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Additionally, inclusion or exclusion of a treatment, procedure, or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member

Special Notes: *

- Coverage: See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Individual specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.
- Application to products: Policy is applicable to Sentara Health Plan Commercial products.
- Authorization requirements: Pre-certification by the Plan is required.
- Special Notes:
 - Commercial
 - Medical policies can be highly technical and complex and are provided here for informational purposes. These medical policies are intended for use by health care professionals. The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Sentara Health Plan members should discuss the information in the medical policies with their treating health care professionals. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and these medical policies are subject to change without notice, although Sentara Health Plan will notify providers as required in advance of changes that could have a negative impact on benefits.
 - Services mean both medical and behavioral health (mental health) services and supplies unless We specifically tell You otherwise. We do not cover any services that are not listed in the Covered Services section unless required to be covered under state or federal laws and regulations. We do not cover any services that are not Medically Necessary. We sometimes give examples of specific services that are not covered but that does not mean that other similar services are covered. Some services are covered only if We authorize them. When We say You or Your We mean You and any of Your family members covered under the Plan. Call Member Services if You have questions.

References:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; UpToDate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

Federal Register. Daily Journal of the United States Government. Retrieved 1.20.2025.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/search?conditions%5Bterm%5D=foot+surgery>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA.gov. TITLE 21--FOOD AND DRUGS. CHAPTER I- FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. SUBCHAPTER H - MEDICAL DEVICES. PART 888 -- ORTHOPEDIC DEVICES .Subpart D - Prosthetic Devices. Sec. 888.3040 Smooth or threaded metallic bone fixation fastener. 8/30/2024. Retrieved 1.20.2025.
<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/cfrsearch.cfm?fr=888.3040>

Hayes. A symplr Company. Evidence Analysis Research Brief. Apr 19, 2023. TenoTac Soft Tissue Fixation System (Paragon 28, Inc.) for Hammertoe Repair and Bunionectomy. Retrieved 1.20.2025.
<https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/earb.tenotac5591>

Hayes. A symplr Company. Clinical Research Response. Jan 23, 2023. Lapiplasty (Treace Medical Concepts Inc.) for the Correction of Hallux Valgus retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/crr.lapiplasty5022>

Hayes. A symplr Company. Health Technology Assessment. Feb 16, 2023. Subtalar Arthroereisis for the Treatment of Pediatric Flatfoot. Retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.subtalar2574>

Hayes. A symplr Company. Evolving Evidence Review. Jun 30, 2024. GraftJacket Now (Stryker) for Hand Surgeries. Retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/eer.graftjacketnow5595>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CMS.gov. Retrieved 1.20.2025.
<https://www.cms.gov/search/cms?keys=28298>

MCG Informed Care Strategies. 28th Edition. 2024. Musculoskeletal Surgery or Procedure GRG. GRG: SG-MS (ISC GRG). Retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed28/index.html>

MCG Informed Care Strategies. 28th Edition. 2024. Bunionectomy. ORG: S-260 (ISC). Retrieved 1.20.2025.
<https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed28/index.html>

Commonwealth of Virginia. Department of Medical Assistance Services. DMAS.gov. Provider Manual Title: Practitioner. Revision Date: 12/2/2022 Appendix D: Service Authorization Information. Retrieved 1.20.2025.
https://vamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/Physician-Practitioner%20Manual%20App%20D%20%28Updated%2012.2.22%29_Final.pdf

National Comprehensive Cancer Network. NCCN.org. Retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://www.nccn.org/search-result?indexCatalogue=nccn-search-index&searchQuery=bunionectomy>

American Society of Hand Surgeons. Hand Surgery Supplemental Guide. 3.2022. Retrieved 1.20.2025.
<https://www.acgme.org/globalassets/pdfs/milestones/handsurgerysupplementalguide.pdf>

American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society. POSTION STATEMENT Minimally Invasive Surgery for Hallux Valgus Deformity. 11/19/2024. Retrieved 1.20.2025. https://www.aofas.org/docs/default-source/research-and-policy/position-statements/positionstatement_misforhalluxvalgus_nov2024.pdf?sfvrsn=401bbb91_3

PubMed. Fujimura, S., Omokawa, S., Hasegawa, H., Kawamura, K., Nakanishi, Y., & Tanaka, Y. (2024). Arthroscopy-Assisted Surgery for Trapeziometacarpal Osteoarthritis. The journal of hand surgery Asian-Pacific volume, 29(1), 12–16. Retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://doi.org/10.1142/S2424835524500024>

Hembree, W. C., Rodriguez-Materon, S., Dai, A. Z., Alkaramany, E., Mansur, N. S. B., & Guyton, G. P. (2024). What's New in Foot and Ankle Surgery. The Journal of bone and joint surgery. American volume, 106(10), 851–857. Retrieved 1.20.2025. <https://doi.org/10.2106/JBJS.23.01482>

Keywords:

Foot, podiatry, podiatrist, podiatric, bunion, bunionectomy, toe, foot care, surgical removal bunion, metatarsophalangeal joint, SHP Foot Surgeries, SHP Surgical 52, Bunion Correction Surgery, First Metatarsophalangeal (MTP) Joint arthroplasty, subtalar arthroereisis (SA), hand surgery, Interphalangeal, Metacarpophalangeal, finger joint