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## SHP Foot Surgeries

AUTH: SHP Surgical 52 v5 (AC)

**MCG Health**  
Ambulatory Care  
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### Coverage

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See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Individual specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.

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### Application to Products

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Policy is applicable to all products.

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### Authorization Requirements

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Pre-certification by the Plan is required.

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### Description of Item or Service

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

Arthrodesis - Fusion of the first MTP joint

Arthroplasty – Removing the joint or replacing the joint with an implant

Bunionectomy (Hallux Valgus Surgery) – Removing the prominent side of the metatarsal head on the great toe or first metatarsophalangeal joint (MPJ)

Bunionette - Removing the lateral prominence of the fifth metatarsal head, both lateral and plantar of the fifth metatarsophalangeal joint (MPJ)

Cheilectomy - removes extra bone on the tip of the first MTP joint

Exostectomy - removal of a bony prominence / outgrowth causing deformity

Subtalar arthroereisis - is a surgical procedure that involves placing an implant that has the appearance of a threaded cylinder into the sinus tarsi between the talus and calcaneus (heel) to stabilize the foot

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### Exceptions and Limitations

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- There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of the following foot surgeries as they are not shown to improve health outcomes upon technology review:
  - 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
  - Subtalar arthroereisis
- There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of foot surgery for uses other than those listed in the clinical indications for procedure section.

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## Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- 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
  - First Metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint arthroplasty using silastic implants with **ALL** of the following
    - End stage hallux rigidus
    - Arthrodesis (gold standard) is not feasible
- Foot surgeries are **NOT COVERED** for **ANY** of the following as they are not shown to improve health outcomes upon technology review:
  - Interpositional arthroplasty of the first metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint **NOT COVERED** for **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
  - Subtalar arthroereisis

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## Document History

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

- 2000: September
- Effective Date: March 1992

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## Coding Information

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- CPT/HCPCS codes covered if policy criteria is met:
  - CPT 28291 – Hallux rigidus correction with cheilectomy, debridement and capsular release of the first metatarsophalangeal joint; with implant
  - CPT 28292 - Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with resection of proximal phalanx base, when performed, any method
  - CPT 28295 - Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with proximal metatarsal osteotomy, any method
  - CPT 28296 - Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with distal metatarsal osteotomy, any method
  - CPT 28297 - Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with first metatarsal and medial cuneiform joint arthrodesis, any method
  - CPT 28298 - Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with proximal phalanx osteotomy, any method
  - CPT 28299 - Correction, hallux valgus (bunionectomy), with sesamoidectomy, when performed; with double osteotomy, any method
- CPT/HCPCS codes considered not medically necessary per this Policy:
  - CPT 0335T - Insertion of sinus tarsi implant
  - CPT 0510T - Removal of sinus tarsi implant
  - CPT 0511T - Removal and reinsertion of sinus tarsi implant
  - CPT 20920 - Fascia lata graft; by stripper
  - CPT 20922 - Fascia lata graft; by incision and area exposure, complex or sheet
  - CPT 28899 - Unlisted procedure, foot or toes (If used for Interpositional arthroplasty of the first metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint)
  - HCPCS S2117 - Arthroereisis, subtalar

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## References

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References used include but are not limited to the following:

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

(2022). Retrieved Nov 4, 2022, from MCG 26th Edition: <https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed26/index.html>

(2022). Retrieved Nov 20, 2022, from CMS.gov: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search-results.aspx?keyword=bunion&keywordType=all&areald=all&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance>

(2022). Retrieved Nov 21, 2022, from American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) 2022: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE: [https://www.acfas.org/ACFAS/media/ACFAS\\_Media/Diagnosis\\_and\\_TreatmentofForefootDisorders.pdf](https://www.acfas.org/ACFAS/media/ACFAS_Media/Diagnosis_and_TreatmentofForefootDisorders.pdf)

Hallux valgus deformity (bunion) in adults. (2021, Jul 13). Retrieved Nov 20, 2022, from UpToDate: [https://www.uptodate.com/contents/hallux-valgus-deformity-bunion-in-adults?search=foot%20surgery&source=search\\_result&selectedTitle=1~41&usage\\_type=default&display\\_rank=1](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/hallux-valgus-deformity-bunion-in-adults?search=foot%20surgery&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~41&usage_type=default&display_rank=1)

Procedure Fee Files & CPT Codes. (2022). Retrieved Nov 21, 2022, from Department of Medical Assistance Services: <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/for-providers/rates-and-rate-setting/procedure-fee-files-cpt-codes/>

Small Joint Surgery. (2022, Sep 11). Retrieved Nov 18, 2022, from AIM Specialty Health: <https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Small-Joint-Surgery-09-11-22.pdf>

Subtalar Arthroereisis for the Treatment of Adult-Acquired Flatfoot Deformity – Feb 10, 2022. (n.d.). Retrieved Nov 18, 2022, from HAYES: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.flatfoot4836>

Subtalar Arthroereisis for the Treatment of Pediatric Flatfoot - Feb 17, 2022. (n.d.). Retrieved Nov 18, 2022, from Hayes 2: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.subtalar2574>

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## Codes

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**CPT® : 0335T, 0510T, 0511T, 20920, 20922, 28291, 28292, 28295, 28296, 28297, 28298, 28299, 28899**  
**HCPCS: S2117**

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