



**Pricing, Data Analysis  
and Coding (PDAC)**

900 42nd Street South  
PO Box 6757  
Fargo, ND 58103-6757

January 16, 2012

BIRD & CRONIN INC  
ATTN MELISSA REMBLESKI  
1200 TRAPP RD  
EAGAN MN 55121

**Re: Reconsideration of Coding Verification Decision**

**Xref #:** 16631238

**Product:** COMFOR ABDOMINAL BINDER UNISIZE 3 PANEL 9, COMFOR ABDOMINAL BINDER UNISIZE 4 PANEL 12, COMFOR ABDOMINAL BINDER UNISIZE 5 PANEL 15, ABDOMINAL BINDER 10", ABDOMINAL BINDER 8", ABDOMINAL BINDER-UNISIZE WITH STAYS, EXTENSOR LIFTING BELT WITH DETACHABLE STRAPS

**Model number:** 8140345, 8140362, 08140372, 8140445, 8140496, 8144620, 8144720, 8140545, 8140562, 8140572, 8144521, 8144522, 8144523, 8144524, 8144525, 8144526, 8144511, 8144512, 8144513, 8144514, 8144515, 8144516, 8140145, 8140146, 8140147, 8143032, 8143033, 8143034, 8143035, 8143036, 8143037

Dear Ms. Rembleski:

The Pricing, Data Analysis, and Coding (PDAC) Contractor provides Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) assistance to manufacturers to ensure proper coding of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). The PDAC has reviewed the above listed products. It is our determination that the Medicare Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) codes to use when billing the four Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) are:

A4466 GARMENT, BELT, SLEEVE OR OTHER COVERING, ELASTIC OR SIMILAR STRETCHABLE MATERIAL, ANY TYPE, EACH (For Model Numbers 8140345, 8140362, 08140372, 8140445, 8140496, 8144620, 8144720, 8140545, 8140562, 8140572, 8144521, 8144522, 8144523, 8144524, 8144525, 8144526, 8144511, 8144512, 8144513, 8144514, 8144515, 8144516, 8140145, 8140146, 8140147,)

L0625 LUMBAR ORTHOSIS, FLEXIBLE, PROVIDES LUMBAR SUPPORT, POSTERIOR EXTENDS FROM L-1 TO BELOW L-5 VERTEBRA, PRODUCES



INTRACAVITARY PRESSURE TO REDUCE LOAD ON THE INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS, INCLUDES STRAPS, CLOSURES, MAY INCLUDE PENDULOUS ABDOMEN DESIGN, SHOULDER STRAPS, STAYS, PREFABRICATED, INCLUDES FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT (For Model Numbers 8143032, 8143033, 8143034, 8143035, 8143036, 8143037)

Chapter 15, Section 130 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Pub. 100-02) defines a brace as follows:

A brace includes rigid and semi-rigid devices which are used for the purpose of supporting a weak or deformed body member or restricting or eliminating motion in a diseased or injured part of the body. Elastic stockings, garter belts, and similar devices do not come within the scope of the definition of a brace.

Elastic garments or devices in general do not meet the definition of a brace because they are not rigid or semi-rigid devices. This includes devices that include stays that do not provide sufficient pressure to restrict or eliminate motion in the body part. While elastic devices may provide compression or warmth to a leg, arm, back, or neck, if they do not restrict or eliminate motion in a diseased or injured part of the body, then they may not be covered as braces.

Per the Coding Guidelines in the Article for Spinal Orthoses: TLSO and LSO Policy Article Effective July 2010, code L0625 may only be used for orthoses that are made primarily of nonelastic material (e.g., canvas, cotton or nylon) or that have a rigid posterior panel. This product is made primarily of elastic and does not have a rigid posterior panel. Therefore, it does not meet the criteria for the requested code L0625.

The products that did not meet the criteria for L0625 were all the products noted above except the Extensor Lifting Belt With Detachable Straps.

The PDAC provides coding decisions based on the coding guidelines established by the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) and associated policy article developed by the DME MACs. All products submitted to PDAC for a coding verification review are carefully examined by coders and professionals following a formal, standardized process.

From time to time questions come up with the DME MACs and PDAC as to whether a proper coding decision on a product has been made. When such a question arises, the PDAC will re-review the product and render a decision. If the decision is to change the code assigned, the manufacturer of the product is notified. The manufacturer then has the option to ask for a reconsideration, as outlined on our web site.

This coding decision will be available within ten (10) working days on the Durable Medical Equipment Coding System (DMECS), which is located on the PDAC web site, [www.dmepdac.com](http://www.dmepdac.com). Please take the time to verify that this coding decision is correctly reflected in DMECS.

It is the responsibility of manufacturers and distributors to notify the PDAC immediately of any changes involving their products, related to their current listing on the Product Classification List (PCL) on DMECS. Further information for requesting updates to the PCL can be found on the PDAC website at <https://www.dmepdac.com/review/notifying.html>.

The assignment of the HCPCS codes to these products is not an approval or endorsement of the products by Medicare or Noridian Administrative Services, LLC; nor does it imply or guarantee claim reimbursement or coverage. If you have questions about claim coverage or reimbursement, please contact the DME MAC for your jurisdiction.

If you disagree with this decision, you may request a reconsideration within 45 days of the date of this letter. To request a reconsideration, complete the Reconsideration Request form, which can be found on our PDAC web site at [www.dmepdac.com](http://www.dmepdac.com) under the HCPCS Review tab. If your request for a reconsideration is made after the 45-day time frame, we will treat it as a coding verification review request and require a new application and documentation to support the request.

If you have questions about claim coverage or reimbursement, please contact the DME MAC for your jurisdiction. For other questions, contact the PDAC Contact Center at the address listed above or by telephone at (877) 735-1326. The Contact Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT.

PDAC  
Noridian Administrative Services, LLC  
[www.dmepdac.com](http://www.dmepdac.com)