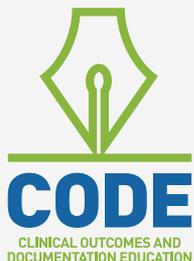


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# Documentation Full Circle From Patient to Policy to Clinical Expertise

Using microprocessor foot ankle systems to illustrate a new way  
of documenting in P&O

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# Overview

- Why use a microprocessor foot ankle (MFA)?
  - Medicare policy note: medical records
- What are the features and benefits of an MFA?
  - Medicare policy note: PDAC approval
- Informed decision making
  - How does it fit in P&O?

- Imagine this scenario:
  - *Patient:* "I want that new high-tech coronary bypass surgery."
  - *Doctor:* "Why?"
  - *Patient:* "Because it's new and high-tech."
  - *Doctor:* "Ok. Lets do the surgery then I'll try to gather up some info afterwards on why you were a candidate for it."

- How about this scenario:
  - *Patient:* "I have chest pain, fatigue, and decreased stamina."
  - *Doctor:* "Ok. Lets run some tests to see what's wrong."
  - "lets track your symptoms over the next few months to see if they get better or worse"
  - "lets do some basic treatments like change of diet and physical therapy"
  - "Once we know what is wrong, lets discuss what treatment options there are and which you prefer"
  - "If you need surgery we can talk about the pros/cons of the traditional surgery and the new high-tech version"

- Insurance claim:
  - Patient required new high-tech coronary bypass surgery because he met the criteria for surgery and was motivated to get it.
  
- Insurance claim:
  - Symptoms of coronary artery dysfunction, tests confirm, conservative treatment didn't work, surgery options were discussed, the new high-tech surgery is the best option for these medical and functional reasons...

# Why use an MFA?

- Falls
  - First things first
    - If you fall a lot and the cause is not shown to be temporary or fixable, you're probably not a K3
  - Establish cause of falls
    - Weakness = P.T.
    - Disease process = Doctor
    - Change of job, activity, or physical capability = Prosthetist/MFA
      - Provided the change is not a downgrade that would cause patient to be classified below K3

# Why use an MFA?

- Falls
  - Assessment by doctor
    - Get these notes first!
    - If you note prosthetic “cure” but doctor notes medical treatment “cure” = no medical necessity for MFA
  - Research (& policy) state
    - Falls due to toe clearance = MFA may help<sup>2</sup>
    - Falls due to difficulty or fear on ramps = MFA may help<sup>4, 5</sup>

# Why use an MFA?

- Joint pain
  - **New?**
    - Get it documented by doctor first
  - **Long standing?**
    - Get copies of doctor documentation first
  - **Establish cause**
    - Systemic issue (ex. RA)= Doctor
    - Isolated joint (ex. Previous injury)= P.T. (?)
    - Movement asymmetry = P.T. or Prosthetist

# Why use an MFA?

- Joint pain
  - Research (& policy) states
    - If movement asymmetry due to prosthetic use is the issue = MFA may help<sup>3,4,5</sup>

# Medicare: Get Doctors Notes FIRST

- PIM Chap. 3 Sec. 3.3.2.1
  - Information submitted by the supplier must corroborate the documentation in the beneficiary's medical documentation
- PIM Chap. 3 Sec. 3.3.2.1.1
  - CMN's, supplier prepared statements, and physician attestations by themselves do NOT provide sufficient documentation of medical necessity, even if signed by the doctor
- PIM Chap. 5 Sec. 5.8
  - If information in the patient's medical record does not adequately support the medical necessity for the item, the supplier is liable for the cost

# Medicare: Get Doctors Notes FIRST

- PIM Chap.5, Sec. 5.9
  - When restoration of function is cited as a reason for use of DMEPOS, the exact nature of the deformity or medical problem should be clear from the medical evidence submitted.
  - Also, the manner in which the equipment or device will restore or improve the bodily function should be explained by the treating physician.
- PIM Chap.3, Sec. 3.7
  - Suppliers showing a pattern of failing to comply with requests for additional supporting documentation may be subject to medical review for all claims.
  - A pattern is TWO or more ADR's that go unanswered

# What are the features & benefits of MFA's?

	Elan	Raize	Kinnex
ROM	6° PF 3° DF	17° PF 8° DF	20° PF 10° DF
PDAC	Approved L5973	x	x
Water resistance	x	x	IP67
Weight	2.10 lbs	1.76 lbs	3.28 lbs
Height	6.7 in.	3.5 in.	7.3 in.

# Benefits of MFA's

- ROM
  - Patient characteristics
    - Length of residual limb
      - Short...can't control with too much ROM?
      - Long....ability to control limb with more ROM?
  - Patient need
    - Frequent ramps vs. uneven ground
    - Joint pain vs. fall prevention vs. other
  - Patient use
    - Activities require large ROM

# What are the features & benefits of MFA's?

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# PDAC approval

- Voluntary by manufacturer
- Not required for billing
- CMS Correct Coding Publication<sup>6</sup>
  - Incorrect coding may result in improper payment necessitating recoupment and possible false claim actions.
  - The PDAC is responsible for assigning individual DMEPOS products to HCPCS code categories for billing Medicare.
  - We encourage suppliers only to accept coding information from manufacturers when the product has been officially coded and listed on DMECS.

# Informed decision making

- **Basic Foot**

- Pros

- Less expensive
- No adjustment period
- Lighter

- Cons

- No terrain adjustment
- Possible continued falls

- **MFA**

- Pros

- Based on healthcare team assessment, possible decreased falls or joint pain, etc

- Cons

- Heavier
- More expensive
- Adjustment period

# Informed decision making

- Questionnaires
  - Help patients understand needs, goals
  - Make problems clear
- Shared Decision Making Tools
  - “Engaging the patient with a formal shared decision making tool can help them synthesize the clinical, emotional, and practical sides of a choice.”<sup>7</sup>

# Ottawa Personal Decision Guide

For People Facing Tough Health or Social Decisions

You will be guided through four steps: 1 2 3 4



## 1 Clarify your decision.

What decision do you face?

What is your reason for making this decision?

When do you need to make a choice?

How far along are you with making a choice?

Not yet thought about the options  
Thinking about the options

Close to making a choice  
Already made a choice

## 2 Explore your decision.



### Knowledge

List the options and main benefits and risks you already know.



### Values

Use stars (★) to show how much each benefit and risk matters to you. 5 stars means that it matters "a lot". No stars means "not at all".



### Certainty

Consider the option with the benefits that matter most to you and are most likely to happen. Avoid the options with the risks that matter most to you.

	Reasons to Choose this Option (Benefits / Advantages / Pros)	How much it matters Use 0 to 5 ★s	Reasons to Avoid this Option (Risks / Disadvantages / Cons)	How much it matters Use 0 to 5 ★s
Option #1				
Option #2				
Option #3				

Which option do you prefer?

#1

#2

#3

Unsure



### Support

Who else is involved?

Which option do they prefer?

Is this person pressuring you?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

How can they support you?

What role do you prefer in making the choice?

Share the decision with  
Decide myself after hearing views of  
Someone else decides

Who?

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- Formal shared decision making tools are intended to help increase patient engagement in medical decisions<sup>7</sup>
- Research shows that patients using decision support tools tend to have more realistic expectations of treatment outcomes<sup>7</sup>
- Research suggests that in the event of a lawsuit, the documented use of patient decision aids may help strengthen a jury's belief that an appropriate standard of care was met<sup>7</sup>

# Informed decision making

- Especially important for
  - Complex devices
  - Subtle differences/benefits
  - Expensive items
  - Data gathering to document need
  - Educating the healthcare team

# Conclusion

- Understand why a patient might need a microprocessor foot ankle system
  - Use doctors notes along with patient report to establish needs
- Recognize the differences between MFA products
  - Know what the features of each product are and why the patient needs them
- Make the connection between product features and patient need so patients can make an informed decision
  - Ensure the patient understands need for MFA over a more basic device

# References

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