Medicare physician chart note requirements for Spinal Orthoses (back braces)

Medicare requires a narrative description, in your own words, in your chart notes, of the following

**Reason for brace:**
- To reduce pain by restricting mobility of trunk
  OR
- To facilitate healing following an injury to spine or related soft tissues
  OR
- To facilitate healing following a surgical procedure on spine or related soft tissues
  OR
- To support weak spinal muscles and/or deformed spine

**Specific type of brace:**
What anatomical areas should the brace cover (ex. From sacrococcygeal junction to T9).
What the brace should do (ex. restrict motion in sagittal and coronal planes)

**Off the shelf, custom fitted, or custom made:**
Off the shelf (usually sized small, medium, large)
  - Patient needs a standard brace for a short period of time
  - Patient has typical body size and shape
Custom fitted (sized but substantially modified to fit patient)
  - Patient needs the brace for a short period of time
  - Patient has atypical body size or shape
Custom made (made to a model of that specific patient)
  - Patient needs brace for an extended period of time
  - Patient has typical or atypical body size or shape
  - Patient has used off the shelf braces before with poor results
  - Patient has atypical activities, high activity level, is traditionally non-compliant

**Rx** should have type of brace and fitting method (off the shelf, custom fit, custom made).
**Chart notes** should have detail on why that brace is needed and why a lesser brace might not work for the patient.