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### L1902 – Ankle Gauntlets

TrustSolutions, the Region C DME Program Safeguard Contractor (PSC), has identified significant inappropriate utilization of ankle gauntlets, L1902. Coverage of ankle gauntlets, as defined by the statutory benefit for braces, is limited to situations in which it is used to support a weak or deformed body member or to restrict or eliminate motion in a diseased or injured part of the body. Furthermore, the medical policy on Ankle-Foot and Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthoses says that they are covered for ambulatory patients with weakness or deformity of the foot and ankle who require stabilization for medical reasons and have the potential to benefit functionally. The most common (not all-inclusive) covered uses of an ankle gauntlet are ankle sprains, strains, or instability, tendonitis or rupture of a tendon, dislocation or subluxation of the ankle, and post-fracture or post-operative immobilization.

Covered use of an ankle gauntlet must be supported by:

- A physician order (verbal or written) prior to dispensing the item, and
- A detailed written order signed and dated by the physician and received by the supplier prior to claim submission, and
- Documentation in the patient's medical record (prior to ordering the item) including a relevant history, physical examination, assessment, and treatment plan. A form provided by the supplier is insufficient, even if filled out and signed by the physician.

This documentation must be available on request from the DME PSC.


Covered uses of an ankle gauntlet are initiated by a physician, not by direct marketing to the beneficiary.

As with all DMEPOS items, there must be proof of delivery that is available on request. Refer to [Chapter 6](#) of the Region C DMEPOS Supplier Manual for details.

Some of the products that are billed using code L1902 are being promoted

as providing warmth, increasing circulation, providing protection and comfort, assisting in pain relief from diabetes, arthritis, Raynaud's disease, or other conditions, treating joint stiffness or swelling, treating disuse atrophy, etc. These are statutorily noncovered uses of an ankle gauntlet. Some suppliers are providing two ankle gauntlet wraps on a routine basis when they provide therapeutic shoes for diabetics. This would be a statutorily noncovered use. If an item is being provided for a noncovered use, a GY modifier should be added to the code.

Questions concerning the coding of specific items should be directed to the Statistical Analysis DME Regional Carrier (SADMERC).

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