

**To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.**

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**NC Medicaid  
Medically Necessary  
Routine Foot Care**

**Medicaid and Health Choice  
Clinical Coverage Policy No: 1C-2:  
Amended Date: December 12, 2019**

|    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
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**Related Clinical Coverage Policies**

Refer to <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/> for the related coverage policies listed below:  
1C-1, *Podiatry Services*

## **1.0 Description of the Procedure, Product, or Service**

Medically necessary routine foot care is the cutting or removal of corns and calluses; trimming, cutting, clipping, or debriding of nails; and other hygienic care due to a physical or clinical finding that is consistent with a metabolic, neurological, and/or peripheral vascular disease diagnosis and indicative of severe peripheral involvement.

**Note:** In the absence of medical necessity, these services are considered routine and are not covered by the N.C. Medicaid program.

### **1.1 Definitions**

None Apply.

## **2.0 Eligibility Requirements**

### **2.1 Provisions**

#### **2.1.1 General**

*(The term “General” found throughout this policy applies to all Medicaid and NCHC policies)*

- a. An eligible beneficiary shall be enrolled in either:
  1. the NC Medicaid Program (*Medicaid is NC Medicaid program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise*); or
  2. the NC Health Choice (*NCHC is NC Health Choice program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise*) Program on the date of service and shall meet the criteria in **Section 3.0 of this policy**.
- b. Provider(s) shall verify each Medicaid or NCHC beneficiary’s eligibility each time a service is rendered.
- c. The Medicaid beneficiary may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.
- d. Following is only one of the eligibility and other requirements for participation in the NCHC Program under GS 108A-70.21(a): Children must be between the ages of 6 through 18.

#### **2.1.2 Specific**

*(The term “Specific” found throughout this policy only applies to this policy)*

- a. **Medicaid**  
None Apply.
- b. **NCHC**  
None Apply.

## 2.2 Special Provisions

### 2.2.1 EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age

#### a. 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiary under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed practitioner).

This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his or her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary's physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product or procedure:

1. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental or investigational.
2. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

#### b. EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

1. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.
2. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing*

*Assistance Guide*, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

*NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:*  
<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

### **2.2.2 EPSDT does not apply to NCHC beneficiaries**

### **2.2.3 Health Choice Special Provision for a Health Choice Beneficiary age 6 through 18 years of age**

NC Medicaid shall deny the claim for coverage for an NCHC beneficiary who does not meet the criteria within **Section 3.0** of this policy. Only services included under the NCHC State Plan and the NC Medicaid clinical coverage policies, service definitions, or billing codes are covered for an NCHC beneficiary.

## **3.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Covered**

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Recipients under 21 Years of Age.*

### **3.1 General Criteria Covered**

Medicaid and NCHC shall cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when medically necessary, and:

- a. the procedure, product, or service is individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs;
- b. the procedure, product, or service can be safely furnished, and no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- c. the procedure, product, or service is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker, or the provider.

### **3.2 Specific Criteria Covered**

#### **3.2.1 Specific criteria covered by both Medicaid and NCHC**

Medically necessary routine foot care services will be covered **only** when:

- a. they are an integral part of otherwise covered services (refer to clinical coverage policy 1C-1, *Podiatry Services*, at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>); or
- b. documentation illustrates the presence of metabolic, neurological, and/or peripheral vascular disease and indicative of severe peripheral involvement or provides evidence of specific active complications resulting from prior insults due to the aforementioned systemic conditions; or
- c. there is evidence of mycotic nail infection that in the absence of a systemic condition results in intolerable pain or secondary infection.

Medically necessary routine foot care, when provided by podiatrists, is covered for specific diagnoses only. Refer to Clinical Coverage Policy #1C-1, *Podiatry Services* (at

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>) Attachment A Section B for an approved list of diagnosis codes.

The recipient must be under the active care of a physician for the systemic condition.

**Note:** Curettement or shavings of lesion procedures are reviewed to determine if the service is routine foot care.

### **3.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Covered**

None Apply.

### **3.2.3 NCHC Additional Criteria Covered**

None Apply.

## **4.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Not Covered**

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Recipients under 21 Years of Age.*

### **4.1 General Criteria Not Covered**

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when:

- a. the beneficiary does not meet the eligibility requirements listed in **Section 2.0**;
- b. the beneficiary does not meet the criteria listed in **Section 3.0**;
- c. the procedure, product, or service duplicates another provider's procedure, product, or service; or
- d. the procedure, product, or service is experimental, investigational, or part of a clinical trial.

### **4.2 Specific Criteria Not Covered**

#### **4.2.1 Specific Criteria Not Covered by both Medicaid and NCHC**

In the absence of medical necessity, these services are considered routine and are not covered by Medicaid and NCHC.

#### **4.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Not Covered**

None Apply.

#### **4.2.3 NCHC Additional Criteria Not Covered**

- a. NCGS § 108A-70.21(b) "Except as otherwise provided for eligibility, fees, deductibles, copayments, and other cost sharing charges, health benefits coverage provided to children eligible under the Program shall be equivalent to coverage provided for dependents under North Carolina Medicaid Program except for the following:
  1. No services for long-term care.
  2. No nonemergency medical transportation.
  3. No EPSDT.
  4. Dental services shall be provided on a restricted basis in accordance with criteria adopted by the Department to implement this subsection."

## **5.0 Requirements for and Limitations on Coverage**

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Recipients under 21 Years of Age.*

### **5.1 Prior Approval**

Prior approval for medically necessary routine foot care is not required, except for recipients with Medicaid for Pregnant Women coverage, to document medical necessity for services related to pregnancy or due to complications of pregnancy. Prior approval is obtained using the Medicaid Request for Prior Approval Form 372-118.

### **5.2 Prior Approval Requirements**

#### **5.2.1 General**

The provider(s) shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Utilization Review Contractor the following:

- a. the prior approval request; and
- b. all health records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy.

#### **5.2.2 Specific**

None Apply.

### **5.3 Additional Limitations or Requirements**

None Apply.

## **6.0 Provider(s) Eligible to Bill for the Procedure, Product, or Service**

To be eligible to bill for the procedure, product, or service related to this policy, the provider(s) shall:

- a. meet Medicaid or NCHC qualifications for participation;
- b. have a current and signed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Provider Administrative Participation Agreement; and
- c. bill only for procedures, products, and services that are within the scope of their clinical practice, as defined by the appropriate licensing entity.

### **6.1 Provider Qualifications and Occupational Licensing Entity Regulations**

None Apply.

### **6.2 Provider Certifications**

None Apply.

## 7.0 Additional Requirements

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.*

### 7.1 Compliance

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

- a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and
- b. All NC Medicaid's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, DHHS division(s) or fiscal contractor(s).



## 8.0 Policy Implementation/Revision Information

Original Effective Date: July 1, 1988

### Revision Information:

| Date    | Section Revised        | Change   |
|---------|------------------------|--|
| 12/1/06 | Sections 2 through 5   | A special provision related to EPSDT was added.  |
| 2/1/07  | Attachment A           | Corrected a diagnosis code (from 759.5 to 729.5) in Section B, #2.   |
| 5/1/07  | Sections 2 through 5   | EPSDT information was revised to clarify exceptions to policy limitations for recipients under 21 years of age   |
| 8/1/07  | Attachment A, Letter B | Corrected a diagnosis code (from 719.77 to 719.7).   |
| 12/1/10 | Section 1.0            | Added standard DMA policy language   |
| 12/1/10 | Section 3.0            | Added standard DMA policy language   |
| 12/1/10 | Subsection 3.1         | Added standard DMA policy language and deleted "the procedures, are medically necessary"   |
| 12/1/10 | Subsection 3.2         | Changed heading from Medical Necessity to Specific Criteria. Added the wording to (b) and indicative of severe peripheral involvement. Added Medically necessary routine foot care, when provided by podiatrists, is covered for specific diagnoses only. Refer to Attachment A Section B Diagnosis Codes for an approved list of diagnosis codes. |
| 12/1/10 | Section 4.0            | Added standard DMA policy language   |
| 12/1/10 | Subsection 4.2         | Changed Routine Foot Care to Specific Criteria   |
| 12/1/10 | Section 5.0            | Added standard DMA policy language   |
| 12/1/10 | Section 6.0            | Added "a. This policy applies to podiatrists, physicians and nurse practitioners. Added standard DMA policy language"  |
| 12/1/10 | Section 7.0            | Added EPSDT Language Added standard DMA policy language  |
| 12/1/10 | Attachment A           | Section A Claim Type, Section B Diagnosis Codes Added Professional (CMS-1500/837 P transaction) and Institutional (UB_04/837I transaction). Added Refer to Clinical Coverage Policy # 1C-1 Podiatry Services Attachment A Section B for approved list of diagnosis codes.  |

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Section Revised</b>       | <b>Change</b>  |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|
|             |                              | Section E: Billing Units<br>Section F: Place of Service<br>Section G: Co-payments<br>Updated Medicaid billing guide web address<br>Section H: Reimbursement  |
| 7/1/10      | Throughout                   | Policy Conversion: Implementation of Session Law 2009-451, Section 10.32 “NC HEALTH CHOICE/PROCEDURES FOR CHANGING MEDICAL POLICY.”  |
| 3/12/12     | Throughout                   | To be equivalent where applicable to NC DMA’s Clinical Coverage Policy # 1C-2 under session Law 2011-145 § 10.41. (b)  |
| 3/12/12     | Throughout                   | Technical changes to merge Medicaid and NCHC current coverage into one policy.   |
| 5/1/12      | Subsection 3.2               | Removed the statement “such as plantar warts”  |
| 10/01/2015  | All Sections and Attachments | Updated policy template language and added ICD-10 codes to comply with federally mandated 10/1/2015 implementation where applicable.   |
| 03/15/2019  | Table of Contents            | Added, “To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after November 1, 2019, please contact your PHP.”                          |
| 03/15/2019  | All Sections and Attachments | Updated policy template language.  |
| 12/12/2019  | Table of Contents            | Updated policy template language, “To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.” |
| 12/12/2019  | Attachment A                 | Added, “Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines.                       |

## Attachment A: Claims-Related Information

Provider(s) shall comply with the, *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, Medicaid bulletins, fee schedules, NC Medicaid’s clinical coverage policies and any other relevant documents for specific coverage and reimbursement for Medicaid and NCHC:

### A. Claim Type

Professional (CMS-1500/837P transaction)

Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines.

### B. International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revisions, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and Procedural Coding System (PCS)

Provider(s) shall report the ICD-10-CM and Procedural Coding System (PCS) to the highest level of specificity that supports medical necessity. Provider(s) shall use the current ICD-10 edition and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

Debridement of nail(s) for a patient with infected mycotic nails and a systemic condition or marked ambulatory limitations due to pain or infection are covered with following primary and secondary ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes.

| Primary ICD-10-CM Code(s) |
|---------------------------|
| B35.1                     |

| Secondary ICD-10-CM Code(s) |         |         |        |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| L02.611                     | L03.041 | M79.673 | R26.1  |
| L02.612                     | L03.042 | M79.674 | R26.2  |
| L02.619                     | L03.049 | M79.675 | R26.81 |
| L03.031                     | M79.671 | M79.676 | R26.89 |
| L03.032                     | M79.672 | R26.0   | R26.9  |
| L03.039                     |         |         |        |

Refer to clinical coverage policy 1C-1, *Podiatry Services* at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>, **Attachment A** Section B for approved list of diagnosis codes when this service is provided by a podiatrist.

### C. Code(s)

Provider(s) shall report the most specific billing code that accurately and completely describes the procedure, product or service provided. Provider(s) shall use the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (for a complete listing of valid revenue codes) and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for the code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

If no such specific CPT or HCPCS code exists, then the provider(s) shall report the procedure, product or service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code.

| CPT Code(s) |       |
|-------------|-------|
| 11055       | 11719 |
| 11056       | 11720 |
| 11057       | 11721 |

| HCPCS Code(s) |
|---------------|
| G0127         |

**Note:** When billing G0127 for trimming of dystrophic nails include on the claim an ICD-10 CM diagnosis code describing the recipient's systemic condition. The billing unit = 1 regardless of the number of nails that are trimmed.

**Unlisted Procedure or Service**

**CPT:** The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of the CPT Codebook, Unlisted Procedure or Service, and Special Report as documented in the current CPT in effect at the time of service.

**HCPCS:** The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions For Use of HCPCS National Level II codes, Unlisted Procedure or Service and Special Report as documented in the current HCPCS edition in effect at the time of service.

**D. Modifiers**

Provider(s) shall follow applicable modifier guidelines. Class findings refer to certain categories of physical and/or clinical findings consistent with the diagnosis given and indicative of severe peripheral involvement. The relevant modifiers are as follows.

| Modifier |
|----------|
| Q7       |
| Q8       |
| Q9       |

**E. Billing Units**

Provider(s) shall report the appropriate code(s) used which determines the billing unit(s).

**F. Place of Service**

Inpatient, Outpatient, Office.

**G. Co-payments**

For Medicaid refer to Medicaid State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/get-involved/nc-health-choice-state-plan>

For NCHC refer to NCHC State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/get-involved/nc-health-choice-state-plan>

**H. Reimbursement**

Provider(s) shall bill their usual and customary charges.

For a schedule of rates, refer to: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>