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## Dear Physician:

Many insurance companies have a Reasonable Useful Lifetime (RUL) for orthotic devices of several years. For a patient to receive a new device within this timeframe there must be documentation from the physician to support the medical necessity of a new device before the RUL has expired (ex. anatomical change, change in functional status, irreparable damage, device is not meeting patient's medical or functional needs, etc.).

The physician documentation must be included in the <u>physician's chart note</u> (a letter of medical necessity is not considered part of the medical record). Please fax any relevant chart notes to our office.

## The physician must document at least one of the following:

- 1. Reason for replacement due to loss, theft, or irreparable damage related to a specific incident that is not due to ongoing daily use of the device, or wear and tear. (Example: natural disaster, damage from specific accident, flood, loss in move, theft)
- 2. Reason for replacement due to physiological change in condition. Specific change in anatomy must be noted, or supporting medical necessity that shows new injury or surgical procedure in which previous brace could not long reasonably accommodate. (Example: weight/volume changes in limb, new injury or surgery, previous brace causes discomfort or skin breakdown)
- 3. Reason for replacement of previous device due to functional differences in the orthosis. (Example: patient was fit with a short leg walking boot and now requires an ankle support orthosis for daily use and stability in ambulation, custom brace requires vs. Prefabricated due to orthopedic condition)

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