Benefit Changes for Cranial Molding Devices

Information posted March 12, 2007

Effective for dates of service on or after May 1, 2007, benefits and prior authorization for cranial molding device (procedure code 9-S1040) will change for the Texas Medicaid Program. Procedure code 9-S1040 will only be reimbursed to durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers in the home setting.

Cranial molding devices may be prior authorized for reimbursement through the Texas Health Steps-Comprehensive Care Program (THSteps-CCP) with written documentation that supports the medical necessity and includes all of the following:

- The assessment and recommendations of the appropriate primary care physician, pediatric subspecialist, or craniofacial team
- A full description of the physical findings, precise diagnosis, age of onset, and the etiology of the deformity, including an X-ray or computed tomography (CT) scan
- The age of the client (3 to 18 months of age)
- Anthropometric measurements:
  - For children younger than 6 months of age—Documentation of aggressive repositioning and/or physical therapy of at least 3 months duration without improvement, and data documenting greater than 12 mm of asymmetry in one or more of the anthropometric measurements: cranial vault, skull base, and orbitotragial cranial depths
  - For children over 6 months of age but less than 18 months of age—Data documenting greater than 12 mm of asymmetry in one or more of the anthropometric measurements: cranial vault, skull base, and orbitotragial cranial depths
- Documentation that an alternative treatment course of two months has been tried with documented evidence of supervised "tummy time" during periods of wakefulness, and repositioning the client's head such that the client lies opposite to the preferred position with stretching exercises
- Plan of treatment and/or follow-up schedule

Only Medicaid-enrolled providers may be authorized for reimbursement.

Positional plagiocephaly is a benign, typically self-limited physical finding and is not a pathological condition. The use of cranial molding devices as a treatment of positional plagiocephaly is cosmetic in nature; therefore, it is not medically necessary. The definition of "cosmetic" includes surgery or other services used primarily to improve appearance and not to restore or correct significant deformity resulting from disease, trauma, congenital or developmental anomalies, or a previous therapeutic process.

Requests for cranial molding devices will be considered for prior authorization for use after surgery for cranial deformities, including craniosynostosis. Cranial molding devices may be a benefit of the Texas Medicaid Program when included as part of a treatment plan to reshape a skull deformity due to pathologic processes.
Details of these changes will be available in the May/June 2007 Texas Medicaid Bulletin, No. 204.

For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.