

**ADVANCE NOTICE TO PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE THAT
MEDICARE WILL NOT PAY FOR CERTAIN FOOT CARE SERVICES AND ITEMS**

When you receive foot care services and items that are not Medicare benefits, you are responsible to pay for them personally or through any other insurance that you may have. Medicare does not pay for all of your health care costs. Medicare only pays for covered benefits. When services or items are **not Medicare covered benefits**, Medicare will **not pay** for them.

The purpose of this advance notice is to help you make an informed choice about whether or not you want to receive these foot care services or items, knowing that you will have to pay for them yourself. We do not send claims to Medicare for foot care services or items that are always excluded from Medicare coverage.

Before you make a decision, you should read this entire notice carefully.

- **The Medicare program does not cover most routine foot care and flat foot care.** The Medicare law clearly excludes coverage for services in connection with “the cutting or removal of corns or calluses, the trimming of nails, and other routine hygienic care.” The Medicare law clearly excludes coverage for services in connection with “treatment of flat foot conditions and the prescription of supportive devices therefor” or with “the treatment of subluxations of the foot.” Providers may not be required to submit Medicare claims for such services.
 - A narrow **exception** permits coverage of some foot care services when certain conditions result in severe circulatory problems or areas of diminished sensation.
- **The Medicare program does not cover most orthopedic shoes or other foot supports (orthotics).** The Medicare law clearly excludes coverage for services in connection with “orthopedic shoes or other supportive devices for the feet.”
 - A narrow **exception** permits coverage of special shoes and inserts for certain patients with diabetes.
- For people with Medicare, this means that Medicare will not pay for most routine foot care, flat foot care, orthopedic shoes, or orthotics, because they are not Medicare covered benefits. **Payment for these excluded foot care services and items is your responsibility.**

If you have any additional questions concerning Medicare coverage for foot care services or items, you can contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

This notice is published by: American Podiatric Medical Association 9312 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-1621.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has reviewed this APMA notice about foot care coverage and confirmed the accuracy of its content. This notice is only a general summary of foot care exclusions from Medicare benefits. It is not a legal document. The official Medicare program provisions are contained in relevant laws, regulations, and rulings.