Medical Utilization Management Policy

SUBJECT: BACK BRACES FOR IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS

INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):

- Medicaid
  - BadgerCare Plus
  - Care4Kids Program

- Individual and Family
  - Commercial
  - Marketplace

PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:
This policy addresses the medical necessity of back braces in the treatment of infantile, juvenile, or adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. This policy does not apply to back braces for adults with scoliosis.

POLICY:
CCHP follows the recommendations of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) for treatment of scoliosis. The SRS does not endorse a specific guideline with strict criteria for bracing because there are many clinical factors involved. CCHP’s only formal criteria for authorization of bracing are:

1. Member has been evaluated by a physician who specializes in treatment of idiopathic scoliosis and:
a. Member is diagnosed with infantile, juvenile, or adolescent idiopathic scoliosis
b. The physician is prescribing one of the standard braces designed to reduce the progression of scoliosis before the member’s bone growth reaches maturity.
c. Documentation of the evaluation with clinical justification including Risser sign and Cobb’s angle is available if requested.

2. Additional braces requested due to growth of the individual will be authorized if there is documentation the current brace no longer fits and the individual has had an updated evaluation by the spine specialist documenting the ongoing need for bracing.

3. This policy may be used, if applicable, to evaluate request for braces in individuals with other causes of scoliosis such as neuromuscular, congenital, or syndromic, along as the purpose of the brace is to reduce progression of scoliosis before bone growth has completed.

REFERENCES
1. Scoliosis Research Society:  www.srs.org