Freestyle L-Code Technical Testing Report

Introduction

There is no existing L-Code established by CMS for a prosthetic foot designed specifically for swimming. For this reason, it is recommended that clinicians bill the L5999 miscellaneous code in conjunction with the following description of the function provided by this prosthetic device.

Description: L5999 -Addition to lower extremity prosthesis, articulating ankle for use while swimming and for transitions between swimming and walking; used in conjunction with an energy storing foot (non-removable)

The Freestyle ankle articulates from a neutral position to 70 degrees of plantar flexion so that a prosthetic leg can be utilized while swimming and the user can put the ankle back to neutral for walking. This allows for safe transitions between the two activities.

AOPA Testing Protocol

While there is no code specific to a swimming prosthetic foot, the foot module (keel and heel assembly) of the Freestyle Swim Foot was tested according to the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) test specifications published in September 2010 of *AOPA Prosthetic Foot Project Report.* All tests were conducted using a standard 27 cm left foot for an A80 patient. The Freestyle exceeds all required thresholds necessary to recommend the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes L5981. Abbreviated test descriptions and results are described below.

It is at the clinician's discretion whether or not to bill L5999 for the entire Freestyle foot assembly, or, bill L5981 for the foot module and additionally L5999 for the ankle component.

L5981 -All lower extremity prosthesis, flex-walk system or equal

In order to use code L5981, the prosthetic foot must meet the Dynamic Keel threshold of Keel Test, and must meet the Dynamic Heel threshold of Heel Test, and must have independently deflecting heel and keel as described in AOPA *Prosthetic Foot Project Report*.

The Keel Test involves loading the toe of the prosthetic foot at an angle of 20° with a force of 1230 N and determining the displacement while under that load and percent of energy returned by calculating area between loading and unloading curves. Based on the test results the Keel can be classified as Rigid, Flexible, or Dynamic based on the classification criteria below.

Keel Type	Displacement @ 1230 N	% Return
Rigid	<25 mm	NA
Flexible	≥25 mm	<75%
Dynamic	≥25 mm	≥75%

For the Freestyle, the actual displacement exceeded 25 mm and the percent of energy returned exceeded 75% which meets the criteria for the Dynamic Keel threshold of the Keel Test.

The Heel Test involves loading the heel of the prosthetic foot at an angle of 15^{o} with a force of 1230 N and determining the displacement while under that load and percent of energy returned by calculating area between loading and unloading curves. Based on the test results the Heel can be classified as Dynamic or Cushioned based on the classification criteria below.

Heel Type	Displacement @ 1230 N	% Return
Dynamic	≥13 mm or pass % Return	≥82% or pass Displacement
Cushioned	Does not meet displacement and % Return Criteria for Dynamic	

For the Freestyle, the actual displacement exceeded 13 mm and the percent of energy returned exceeded 82% which meets the criteria for the Dynamic Heel threshold of the Heel Test.

Determination of whether a foot has independently deflecting heel and keel is a judgment based on whether the mechanical design of the prosthetic foot meets AOPA requirement of independent heel/keel design. The Freestyle with its two primary composite springs; the primary keel and the integrated full length soleplate, in Freedom Innovations' judgment meets the definition of independently deflecting heel and keel.