



Dr Comfort Updates – Feb 22, 2008

Accreditation is Not Going Away

Several of us at Dr. Comfort have spent the week talking to companies that have been qualified as Accrediting firms. We learned quite a bit over the week and will provide you with regular updates to de-mystify this beast and break it down into reasonable bites. Here's a snapshot of what we have learned about the accreditation process as mandated in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act:

- Accreditation is not going away – all attempts to get Podiatrist's offices exempted from this standard have failed. There will be no ducking this one for anyone billing under Part B.
- From start to finish, the accreditation process will take from 3-7 months – we will explain more of the specifics in upcoming faxes. If you back up from the designated date of 9/30/09 and you look at the far end of the range, then you need to start your process no later than the end of Feb09. You also don't want to be in that last group – there is going to be a mad scramble at the end.
- You need to take this seriously – failure to achieve accreditation by 9/30/09 means that you will not be able to bill Medicare for provided services. Not good. The person running your offices needs to dedicate some time to this.
- Accreditation is generally by facility – it looks like discounts may be provided for multi-location practices. But each office/facility is treated separately.
- The cost for accrediting a single facility is between \$2,650 and \$3,000 – this will be good for a 3-year period. While the initial outlay may be painful, annual costs should be less than \$1,000 per year. It won't take too many pairs of shoes to make that back.

Dr. Comfort will become affiliated with one or more of these accrediting bodies to customize a manual or procedural guide that will help each of you. In addition, we will use our buying leverage to provide you with a better price.

Brian Suggests the Betty or the Douglas for High Insteps or Internal Braces

Did you realize that the Betty and the Douglas were specifically designed to accommodate high insteps and internal braces. The openings are cut to be at least 1" more distal than a regular walking shoe. This allows easier entry for that meaty foot or one with a high instep. In addition, this larger opening works perfect with internal braces like AFO's.

The unique no-tongue vamp allows the shoe to stretch from plantar to dorsal by almost two inches offering significant more volume without causing high pressure areas.

These features, combined with the other great features of all DrC shoes like a terrific heel counter, mild rocker sole and a seamless interior, we are sure that this will be a great shoe for your hard-to-fit patients.

YOU DESERVE OUR COMFORT!