

Medical Policy

Positional Plagiocephaly

Policy Number: 1092

Policy History

Approve Date:	06/01/2018	Effective Date:	06/01/2018
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Preauthorization

All Plans	Benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain service(s) listed in this policy. Decisions for authorization are subject to all terms and conditions of the applicable benefit plan, including specific exclusions and limitations as well as applicable state and/or federal laws. Please review the benefit plan descriptions for details.
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Policy

Indications of Coverage

Health Tradition considers helmet therapy for positional plagiocephaly to be medically indicated when there is documentation of moderate to severe facial and/or skeletal deformity as to potentially cause structural or functional abnormalities to the brain which could result in neurologic or developmental deficits. The determination of fulfillment of these criteria will be at the discretion of the Associate Medical Director or Medical Director.

Moderate to severe plagiocephaly is defined as:

- A cephalic index at least of two standard deviations below the mean (meaning the head is narrow for its length) or two standard deviations above the mean (meaning the head is wide for its length), OR
- Asymmetry ≥ 12 mm in measurement of the cranial vault OR skull base OR orbitotragial depth

Helmet therapy would be considered in infants who have not responded adequately to a two month trial of repositioning and/or physical therapy AND when the therapy is instituted before 15 months of age. Health Tradition considers helmet therapy for positional plagiocephaly to be cosmetic in all other cases. The presence of frontal bossing does not indicate structural impairment and is considered cosmetic.

References

Review of positional plagiocephaly and helmet therapy with a MCHS-FH pediatrician reveals there is no consensus in the medical literature to support the treatment of positional plagiocephaly as medical. There is generally no cognitive impairment; therefore, this is generally cosmetic.