

# COLUMBIA MEDICAL SUPPLY

!!Your Home for ALL your Medical Equipment Needs!!

## Diabetic Shoes FAQ

**Q: Why do I need special shoes if I am diabetic?**

A: From Wikipedia:

Diabetic shoes, sometimes referred to as extra depth, therapeutic shoes, are specially designed shoes and shoe inserts, intended to reduce the risk of skin breakdown in diabetics with co-existing foot disease.

People with diabetic neuropathy in their feet may have a false sense of security as to how much at risk their feet actually are. An ulcer under the foot can develop in a couple of hours. The primary goal of therapeutic footwear is to prevent complications, which can include strain, ulcers, calluses, or even amputations for patients with diabetes and poor circulation. Neuropathy can also change the shape of a person's feet, which limits the range of shoes that can be worn comfortably.

The diabetic shoes and inserts work together as a preventative system to help diabetics avoid foot injuries and improve mobility..

**Q: How many shoes can I get?**

A: Medicare will pay for one pair of Diabetic Shoes per year and three pairs of inserts per year

**Q: Who writes a prescription for the shoes?**

A: \*\* Podiatrists cannot write prescriptions for Diabetic Shoes!! \*\*\*

Prescription for diabetic shoes needs to be written by your primary care physician or endocrinologist.

**Q: I am pre-diabetic. Can I also get shoes?**

A: One needs to have a diabetes diagnosis in order to get diabetic shoes covered by your insurance.

**Q: Does one need a prescription to get the shoes?**

A: No. Anyone can pay for the shoes out of pocket.

**Q: Do the shoes come in wide widths**

A: Yes. We carry shoes from narrow width to 4E widths.

**Q: What's the process to get the shoes?**

- A:
1. Get a prescription for the shoes from your doctor (not a Podiatrist but your regular doctor)
  2. Come to the store so we can measure your feet and check for any foot deformities.
  3. Look at our extensive shoe display and catalogs to pick the shoe you want. We carry sneakers, casual and dress shoes.
  4. We will contact your insurance to verify coverage and get any additional documentation from your physician
  5. We will order the shoes and call you when they are in.
  6. Come and try the shoes and take them home with you!

We encourage you to try the shoes at the store to ensure proper fit and comfort.

**Q: Do Private insurances also pay for the shoes?**

A: Some do and others do not. Please call your insurance company and ask.

**!!!Call COLUMBIA MEDICAL SUPPLY if you have any other questions or need additional information!!!**

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M-F 10am-6pm