 <p>KMTSJ, Inc.</p>	DEPARTMENT:	Utilization Management
	SUBJECT:	Cranial Remodeling Orthosis
	PRODUCT LINE:	All
	POLICY NUMBER:	HM82
	ORIGINAL POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE:	11/25/16
	LAST REVISED DATE:	4/30/23
	LAST REVIEWED DATE:	4/30/24

SCOPE: To ensure Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire (the Cooperative) consistently and correctly administers cranial remodeling orthosis (CRO) to all members according to policy benefits and medical necessity criteria.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Cooperative to review prior authorization requests for cranial remodeling orthosis.

PROCEDURE: Prior Authorization Required: YES


All Product Lines

PA requests for CRO may be approved if it is medically necessary and will be used to correct skull deformity under the following circumstances:

1. Member has had surgery to treat craniosynostosis; **OR**
2. Member has a diagnosis of severe nonsynostotic positional plagiocephaly and is at least 3 months old and no more than 12 months old; **AND**
3. Member has undergone a 2-month trial of conservative therapy consisting of re-positioning the child's head such that the child lies opposite to the preferred position, has failed to improve the deformity, and is judged to be unlikely to do so; **AND**
4. A pediatric neurosurgeon or pediatric neurologist with expertise in craniofacial malformations or a craniofacial surgeon has indicated that the condition is likely to compromise normal bodily function; **AND**
5. Asymmetry of 10 mm or more in one of the following anthropometric measures: cranial vault, skull base, or orbitotragial depth; **OR**
6. A cephalic index of at least two standard deviations above or below the mean for the appropriate gender/age (see chart below)

The cephalic index is considered abnormal if it is two standard deviations above or below the mean measurements (Farkas and Munro, 1987). Cephalic Index (AAOP, 2004)

Gender	Age	-2 SD	-1 SD	Mean	+1 SD	+2 SD
Male	16 days to 6 months	63.7	68.7	73.7	78.7	83.7
	6 to 12 months	64.8	71.4	78.0	84.6	91.2
Female	16 days to 6 months	63.9	68.6	73.3	78.0	82.7
	6 to 12 months	69.5	74.0	78.5	83.0	87.5

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Definitions:

Plagiocephaly (an asymmetrical head shape) is most often the result of infant spending extended periods of time on their back, typically during sleep. Plagiocephaly can also occur as a feature of other disorders (e.g., craniofacial disorders, torticollis, and cervical anomalies) and is categorized as either positional or nonpositional (premature union of cranial sutures).

Positional plagiocephaly, also called deformational plagiocephaly or positional cranial deformity (PCD), results from external pressure (molding) that causes the skull to become misshapen. It is most often associated with infants sleeping or lying on their backs. Supine positioning is recommended as a strategy to reduce the likelihood of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and has contributed to the increased incidence of post-natal plagiocephaly. Plagiocephaly can also occur as a feature of other disorders (e.g., craniofacial disorders, torticollis, and cervical anomalies). Positional skull deformities are generally benign, reversible head-shape anomalies that do not require surgical intervention.

Craniosynostosis is a non-positional cause of abnormal head shape in infants and occurs when one or more of the sutures in the infant's skull fuse prematurely. The premature fusion of one or more sutures puts pressure on the brain, potentially restricting brain growth and exerting pressure on the other skull bones to expand out of proportion, leading to abnormal skull shape. This can result in neurologic damage and progressive craniofacial distortion.

References: Hayes: Evidence Analysis Research Brief May 30, 2023
Cranial Orthotic Devices for the Treatment of Positional Cranial Deformity

APPROVED: 

DATE: 04/30/2024

REVISION HISTORY:

Rev. Date	Revised By/Title	Summary of Revision
02/18/2019	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed, no changes
04/28/2020	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.
04/28/2021	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.
04/28/2022	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.
04/30/2023	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No criteria changes.
04/30/2024	Michele Bauer, MD, CMO	Reviewed. No changes.