

Guidance For Ethnocare Overlay L5999 Claim Submissions

In August 2023, the PDAC determined there is no existing Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code to describe the Overlay transtibial socket insert. **The PDAC approved the Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) code L5999 for claim submissions.**

While O&P providers have experience billing other new innovative products using the NOC L5999 code, Ethnocare enlisted support from one of the industry's leading reimbursement experts to help our company provide guidance to clinicians who are dispensing the Overlay.

Ethnocare intends to apply for its own unique L-Code in 2024 and welcomes your assistance in helping our company gather the patient and billing data to support a strong application.

ADVISEMENT WHEN BILLING NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED (NOC) CODE L5999

Ethnocare's coding expert recommends the submission of a separate claim when billing the patient's Overlay socket insert and future replacement(s), as an addition to a lower extremity exoskeletal system.

While the Overlay can be billed as part of a claim that includes the prosthesis, socket and other components, use of the L5999 code can increase the potential for an initial medical review or claim denial that can delay reimbursement of the entire claim.

LIST PRICE & MANUFACTURE SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE (MSRP)

When billing the PDAC approved L5999 code, **Ethnocare's Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) is \$899.**

CODING DESCRIPTIONS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: Ethnocare recommends using this wording when billing the Overlay:

L5999: Addition to lower extremity exoskeletal system, Ethnocare Overlay external pneumatic socket insert, w/ integrated expandable air cells, w/ inflation/deflation mechanisms, for management of residual limb volume, shape changes, and socket fit issues.

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Ethnocare recommends using this wording when billing the Overlay:

L5999 ADDITION TO LL PROSTHESIS ETHNOCARE OVERLAY SOCKET INSERT OVXX-XX-X, MSRP \$899

(NOTE: Replace **OVXX-XX-X** with the actual part number for the specific model dispensed to the patient)

Because L5999 is an unlisted (NOC) code, most payers require a short description (less than 80 characters including spaces) that includes specific information about the product. The short description provided above, that meets the character limit, includes the required information: the product's structure (a socket insert), manufacturer (Ethnocare), product name (Overlay) model number, and Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (\$899).

Always check with your software vendor and payer to confirm where to enter this narrative information.

RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN BILLING ELECTRONIC CLAIMS

For electronic claims, notes can be added in two places: **The 2300 Segment** pertains to the entire claim and the **2400 Segment** pertains to an UNLISTED PROCEDURE CODE (L5999).

Note: For both segments, the narrative information is generally limited to 80 characters, including all spaces.

Loop 2300 (description of the overall device)

Ethnocare recommends using this description to describe the Overlay in your claim submission:

L5999 ADDITION TO LL PROSTHESIS, SOCKET INSERT, PNEUMATIC, AIR PUMP, RELEASE VALVE

If you elect to bill the Overlay in a claim submitted for the entire prosthesis, this is a sample description that meets the maximum 80 character requirement:

TT PROSTHESIS, W/SOCKET, W/PNEUMATIC OVERLAY SOCKET INSERT, W/FOOT, PYLON, LINER

Loop 2400 (includes required specific product information when using the L5999 NOC code)

L5999 ADDITION TO LL PROSTHESIS ETHNOCARE OVERLAY SOCKET INSERT, OVXX-XX-X, MSRP \$899

(NOTE: **Replace OVXX-XX-X** with the actual part number for the specific model dispensed to the patient)

FIELD #	Claim Description	EMC ANS 837 Loop	837 Segments
Reserved for Local Use (Commentary/Narrative)	2300	2300	NTE PWK
Not otherwise classified drugs or Unlisted procedure code (NOC)	2400	SV101-7	Description of Service for unlisted procedure code (NOC)

RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN BILLING PAPER CLAIMS

Enter the narrative description on **Line 19** when submitting a hand-written paper claim (CMS-1500). Include the HCFA 1500-line number where the NOC code is located.

EXAMPLE: This description can be entered on **Line 19** when billing the patient's OVERLAY or a future replacement OVERLAY using a separate claim:

TRANSTIBIAL PROSTHESIS PNEUMATIC SOCKET INSERT, W/AIR CHAMBERS, PUMP, VALVE

EXAMPLE: This description can be entered on **Line 19** if you decide to bill the patient's OVERLAY as part of a claim for a prosthesis, socket and components:

TT PROSTHESIS W/SOCKET, W/OVERLAY PNEUMATIC SOCKET INSERT, W/PYLON, FOOT, LINER

On Line 3, use this additional description:

L5999 ADDITION TO LL PROSTHESIS ETHNOCARE OVERLAY SOCKET INSERT, OVXX-XX-X, MSRP \$899

(NOTE: Always replace **OVXX-XX-X** with actual part number of the specific model dispensed to patient)

REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT

Miscellaneous codes are generally referred to as Not Otherwise Classified (NOC), Not Otherwise Specified (NOS) or Non-Assigned Codes. The reimbursement methodology for these codes is generally stated in your payer contract or in the provider manual. The most common methodologies include:

MSRP minus ____% (Use Ethnocare's MSRP of \$899)

Cost plus ____%

Usual and Customary (average amount the clinic is billed by manufacturers or distributors for similar devices)

Average Regional Amount billed for similar devices

The lesser of the above listed methodologies

NOTE: The clinician and/or billing staff should carefully review the payer contract and provider manual before billing a L-5999 coded product.

MEDICAL REVIEWS & INITIAL DENIALS

In some cases, **NOC codes requiring narratives will be subject to Medical Review** or could be **INITIALLY DENIED** regardless of proper claim submission. If this happens, the clinic will need to submit **PERTINENT DOCUMENTATION** (including proof of medical necessity) as the claim may undergo a medical necessity review.

In these situations, clinics should submit documentation that supports the medical necessity of treating the patient with the OVERLAY. Based on the clinician's evaluation of the patient's specific medical needs, current or recurring issues, residual limb characteristics, patient activities and mobility goals, common reasons for a transtibial patient to have medical necessity for the OVERLAY may include:

- **Daily volume fluctuations of the patient's residual limb**
- **Progressive and continuous changes to the shape and size of the residual limb**
- **Treatment of a specific fitting issue**
- **Resolution of socket fit issues when the beneficiary isn't eligible for a replacement socket**

ROUTINE ISSUES DOCUMENTED BY THE CLINICIAN

When the patient's socket is ill-fitting and no longer maintains an intimate and snug fit with all aspects of the limb, the clinician can document and report intermittent and/or frequent issues that may be causing pain; decreased mobility; interruptions to the use of the prosthesis; pressure points, skin irritations, blisters or wounds; and suspension issues leading to loss of stability or safety issues when ambulating which may be easier to manage with the Overlay than using padding and/or varying layers of prosthetic socks.

Managing and treating these issues by dispensing the Overlay can potentially delay the need to fabricate a new socket, including the potential expenses of creating and fitting check sockets, which routinely require multiple appointments for the patient. Dispensing the Overlay socket insert with its unique air expansion system provides a prompt solution that can resolve compromising and potentially serious issues with less expense and more convenience.

The Overlay is also a valuable intervention when the payer has denied the clinician's request to fabricate a new socket for the patient.

Questions/Suggestions

Ethnocare is a new manufacturer, based in Canada, introducing its first product to the US market. We welcome your feedback and the opportunity to have ongoing interactions with clinicians to understand the diversity of payers and billing scenarios that influence the reimbursements for the Overlay. If you have questions or suggestions, please speak with your Ethnocare sales representative or initiate contact with our leadership team by sending an email to clinics@ethnocare.ca.