

Subject:	<b>Foot care in cases of diabetes mellitus</b>
Summary:	<p>The <i>College voor zorgverzekeringen</i> (CVZ) has assessed which care-related forms of foot care for patients with diabetes mellitus can be regarded as care that is insured under the <i>Zorgverzekeringswet</i> (Health Insurance Act). This involves the question as to whether the care involved is medical care as normally provided by G.P.s and specialists and whether it is care that complies with the established medical science and medical practice criterion.</p> <p>Care-related preventative foot care for patients with diabetes mellitus that is insured under the Health Insurance Act is classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual foot examination, comprised of anamnesis, examination and an inventory of risks.</li> <li>• More frequent, specific foot examination, including relevant diagnostics and treatment of skin and nail problems and foot-shape and abnormalities in stance in patients with a moderately increased (Simm's 1) or an increased risk of ulcers (Simm's 2 or 3).</li> <li>• Treatment of risk-factors in patients with a moderately increased risk of ulcers or a high risk of ulcers.</li> <li>• Education and initiating adjustments in life-style factors as part of the treatment cycle.</li> <li>• Advice on adequate footwear.</li> </ul> <p>These care forms are medical care normally provided by G.P.s and medical specialists and they are care that complies with the established medical science and medical practice criterion.</p> <p>CVZ also indicates that the removal of calluses, whether for cosmetic reasons or as a form of personal hygiene, and the adequate cutting of toenails can be regarded as personal hygiene. These activities can therefore not be regarded as care that is insured under the Health Insurance Act.</p>
Type of ruling:	SpZ = Outcome of Assessment Zvw
Date:	28 January 2010
Issued to:	Health insurer
Care form:	Medical (specialist) care