



EXOS UE

FAQ's & TROUBLE SHOOTING TIPS

Can you heat these braces in a microwave oven?

Exos material is not designed to be heated in a microwave oven. Since it contains no moisture or other microwave sensitive materials, it will not get warm in a microwave.

How long does it stay warm and pliable?

Exos will remain pliable for approximately 4-8 minutes depending on the product. The total time it takes to apply is greatly reduced compared to other products. This leaves time to make adjustments as it hardens.

What is the procedure for applying Exos?

Once heated for approximately three to six minutes in the recommended DJO oven, the brace is opened and applied to the extremity. The closure system is loosely tightened, and the caregiver molds and shapes the product comfortably and precisely to the patient. After a few minutes, the material begins to cool and becomes rigid; tension is adjusted for final fit. There should be enough wiggle room to easily insert a finger between the brace and skin.

Is it waterproof?

The brace may be washed or worn while swimming or bathing, only if the physician allows the patient to loosen or remove the brace. If not, the patient cannot get the brace and skin wet. It is imperative that the inside of the brace and patient's skin are completely dry after swimming or bathing.

If the patient goes swimming or takes a shower, how will the patient avoid skin issues?

If the patient has been given permission to loosen or remove the brace, wash the brace (inside and out) and your skin with antimicrobial soap, rinse thoroughly and completely dry the skin and brace (inside and out) with a hair dryer.

Is there natural rubber latex or other potentially allergic or skin sensitive materials?

Exos products are not made with natural rubber latex. It is comprised of hypo-allergic materials. Individuals with unusual allergies should inform the caregiver.

For what kinds of fractures are these useful?

The Exos braces are useful for the same kinds of injuries for which similar devices made of plaster, fiberglass, or thermo-formable plastic are useful. Indications are printed on each package and available on the product page at djoglobal.com.

What can I do for the very heat sensitive or fair skinned patient?

If a patient is very heat sensitive, there is an Exos Wrist Undersleeve available that can be used on the patient before the warm brace is applied and molded. The low profile wrist undersleeve with integrated antimicrobial fabric is used to enhance comfort and protect the skin from shear and moisture.

How tight does the brace need to be for proper stabilization?

Exos braces are meant to be worn under light pressure and not too tight to the skin. A little wiggle room inside an Exos brace promotes air circulation and helps maintain dry healthy skin. An over-tightened brace creates "shear" or pressure on the skin during motion, and can result in irritation, rash, odor and skin issues. Be sure a finger can easily be inserted between the brace and skin.

How long does it take for the braces to get rigid?

It is a similar amount of time for a brace to harden as it does to heat it up. That is, about three minutes for the spicas and wrist braces, and about five to six minutes for the fracture braces.

What if I want to initially mold the brace in a little volar tilt or cock-up position?

Molding a brace in a little volar tilt (flexion) or a cock-up position is very common. The desired molding position is determined by the nature of the injury. After a period of time, the brace may be removed, re-heated, and re-molded in a neutral position.

Can Exos be re-heated or re-molded?

Exos products can be reheated several times. This allows for simple remolding, if the original application is not correct or if at a later date adjustments are required to account for anatomical changes, as healing progresses.

If the brace needs to be re-molded after a patient has worn it, should it be washed first? If so, can it be re-heated wet or does it need to be dry first?

The brace doesn't need to be washed prior to re-heating, however if the physician has given the patient permission to remove the brace, it is recommended to wash the brace on a regular basis to maintain healthy skin and reduce odor and skin issues. The brace should be dry prior to re-heating for proper application and molding.

Is Exos Radiolucent?

Exos is radiolucent allowing for visualization of new callus/bone formation or at the fracture site. Often plaster or fiberglass casts need to be removed in order to see the subtle signs of fracture healing. Removal and replacement is not necessary with Exos.

Is Exos trimmable and if so, how do you trim or cut it?

The Exos braces and sheet material can be trimmed or cut with a scissors or shears. It is easier to cut while the material is warm but can be trimmed cold as well. The edges remain smooth and are not as abrasive or sharp as fiberglass and other materials. Exos also provides an adhesive fabric tape that can be used to cover and finish cut edges.

If a patient looses or tears the strap on their brace how do I get a replacement?

There are replacement straps available in packs of ten in the various sizes that accommodate the specific brace type.

How can I prevent a non-compliant patient from removing the brace?

There is an accessory available called the Exos Locking Ring that goes over the top of the Boa reel. The key is given to the caregiver or parent that allows them to remove the brace, if necessary.

Can the patient figure out how to remove the Exos brace?

A non-compliant patient will remove almost any cast or brace that is applied. They typically remove the brace because it was uncomfortable, too tight, too warm, itchy, or any other annoying reason. With the Exos brace, the removal typically does not destroy the brace. When the patient experiences pain, he simply re-applies the brace, and tightens it to a comfortable level.

How durable are the braces? Can athletes wear them?

The Exos braces are durable enough to last at least eight weeks under normal wear and tear conditions. Fractures heal anywhere from four to eight weeks, depending on the type of fracture, and the age and condition of the patient. **Note: normal conditions do not include manual labor, farming, or competitive sports.**

Are the braces hard to keep clean?

The braces are easy to keep clean and help maintain healthy skin and reduce odor and skin issues. Loosen or remove the brace as instructed by physician. Wash inside and outside of brace and skin with antimicrobial soap and water. Rinse thoroughly with water. Use a hair dryer set on high volume and cool setting to thoroughly dry the interior of the brace and skin.

Can Exos burn the skin, especially of children and older patients?

No, the foam inner layer effectively insulates the skin from the plastic middle layer of the laminate material. This foam serves two purposes: it insulates the skin from the warmer inner plastic layer and allows the plastic to retain heat longer so that it cools gradually and has the proper working time. Exos is dry and comfortable when applying to the patient.

How is reimbursement for the Exos products?

Reimbursement for the Exos braces is excellent and varies from state to state. Typically, reimbursement using the suggested L-Codes is about three to four times the product price.

What is PDAC and the process?

The Pricing, Data Analysis and Coding (PDAC) contractor maintains the Durable Medical Equipment Coding System (DMECS). DMECS is an official source for Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) product code verification and assignment. Coding verification is the process that allows manufacturers/distributors to request a coding decision on a DMEPOS item. It is the responsibility of the PDAC to review DMEPOS products to determine the appropriate Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for Medicare billing. Coding verification by the PDAC is a voluntary process unless mandated by Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) policy.

Why do some Exos braces have PDAC letters and others do not?

Coding verification by the PDAC is a VOLUNTARY process unless mandated by Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) policy. Exos upper extremity products do not require PDAC approval. Prior to DJO acquiring Exos, a few select products were voluntarily submitted to PDAC. Here is a list of codes which require PDAC coding verification: https://www.dmepdac.com/review/items_requiring_coding_verification_reviews.html.

What Exos UE products have PDAC letters?

The Short Thumb Spica (210), the Long Thumb Spica (230), Long Thumb Spica with BOA(231), Boxer Fracture Brace (325) and Radial Gutter Fracture Brace (326). Please note, the new STS II and LTS II have not been submitted for PDAC and we are only suggesting the codes. It is up to the clinic to apply for the proper codes based on the diagnosis.

Why do you need a CG modifier for L3923 and L3924?

The CG modifier must be applied to distinguish the product from "elastic" (non-rigid) DMEPOS product. The CG modifier denotes that the product is a rigid orthosis with plastic or metal component. If the CG modifier is not used it will be down coded.

Where do I find the PDAC letters that DJO has on file for its products?

<http://www.djoglobal.com/corporate-info/compliance/coding>



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