Purpose:
This policy is designed to provide direction on procedures applying rigid immobilization in conjunction with fracture care or surgery and without fracture care or surgery.

Reimbursement Guidelines:

In conjunction with fracture care or surgery

The application of any form of rigid immobilization (e.g., brace, cast, strapping) is considered part of the doctor’s service and is included within the global allowance following fracture care or surgery. Separate payment cannot be made for rigid immobilization, when applied in conjunction with fracture care or within the normal postoperative period following surgery.

Follow-up care and removal of rigid immobilization should also be considered part of the global fracture/surgical care when performed within the postoperative period by the same doctor who applied it.

The application of any form of rigid immobilization includes the cost of usual materials and/or apparatus (plaster, gauze, splints, light cast, strapping, etc.). The cost of materials will not be separately reimbursed.

The application of a localizer jacket (29010-29015) after scoliosis surgery, is eligible for separate payment.

The cost of an orthotic device incorporated into the cast (e.g., cast brace) is not included in the surgical allowance. Coverage for the orthotic device is determined according to individual or group benefits.

This policy position applies to all commercial and/or Medicare Advantage lines of business as indicated above. Reimbursement policies are intended only to establish general guidelines for reimbursement under Highmark plans. Highmark retains the right to review and update its reimbursement policy guidelines at its sole discretion.
Without fracture care or surgery

The application of rigid immobilization may be eligible for separate payment when provided as an initial service for a condition other than a fracture when no other procedure or treatment (e.g., fracture manipulation/reduction, surgical repair) is performed or is expected to be performed. This may be used for the treatment of sprains, dislocations and various other injuries to provide stabilization, protection, or to afford comfort to the patient.

The removal of rigid immobilization, which was not applied for a fracture or following surgery, is eligible for payment when it is removed by a doctor other than the doctor (his associate/partner) who originally applied it.

The application of any form of rigid immobilization includes the cost of usual materials and/or apparatus (plaster, gauze, splints, light cast, strapping, etc.) The cost of materials will not be separately reimbursed.

**Applicable Codes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29000</td>
<td>29010</td>
<td>29015</td>
<td>29035</td>
<td>29040</td>
<td>29044</td>
<td>29046</td>
<td>29049</td>
<td>29055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29058</td>
<td>29065</td>
<td>29075</td>
<td>29085</td>
<td>29105</td>
<td>29125</td>
<td>29126</td>
<td>29305</td>
<td>29325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29345</td>
<td>29355</td>
<td>29358</td>
<td>29365</td>
<td>29405</td>
<td>29425</td>
<td>29435</td>
<td>29445</td>
<td>29505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29515</td>
<td>29700</td>
<td>29705</td>
<td>29710</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RELATED MEDICAL POLICIES:**

Refer to the following Medical Policies for additional information:

- Commercial Medical Policy Z-39: Provider Overhead Expenses