

Payment Policy | Compression Garments/Stockings



EFFECTIVE DATE: 11 | 21 | 2017

POLICY LAST REVIEWED: 04 | 01 | 2026

OVERVIEW

A compression garment (stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) is a typically fitted elastic support garment which is fabricated to apply varying pressure gradients to an area.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Compression Garments/stockings are covered when ordered by a physician and obtained from a durable medical equipment provider.

Note: A member may be dispensed 8 compression stockings or 4 pairs per 12 months after the initial dispensed compression garment(s)/stocking(s). Please reference the Maximum Units policy for unit limits.

Over the counter (OTC) support hose/stockings/garments (e.g., medical support hose, fabric supports, elastic stockings with no degree of pressure, surgical leggings) are not covered and are member liability.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable durable medical equipment benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

A compression garment (stocking/burn garment/gradient pressure aid garment/sleeve) is a typically fitted elastic support garment that is fabricated to apply varying pressure gradients to an area. These garments are considered Durable Medical Equipment (DME). They work by relieving stress on vein walls, restoring venous hemodynamics by aiding muscle pump function, decreasing vein reflux, increasing tissue pressures that lead to decreased edema, stimulate circulation, and are also used in varying the treatment of burn patients. Compression stockings/garments require fitting and measuring by a specially trained individual and require a physician order.

Advancements in technology allow many of the compression garments to be pre-made. Very few need to be custom made unless the degree of gradient pressure is one that cannot be provided in a pre-made garment. This type of order can take six to eight weeks. Please note pre-made stockings are not the same as over-the-counter stockings.

Compression stockings over the counter are a lower grade compression and may not be graduated. Prescription stockings are graduated (pressure decreases from ankle up) and are of specific grades of compression. Higher pressure stockings require a prescription and a trained fitter. These higher pressures range typically from 20-30 mmHg to 50+ mmHg.

CODING

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial

The following HCPCS code(s) are covered when filed by a DME providers.

Note: these code(s) are covered but not separately reimbursed when dispensed by a physician office or an institutional provider

- A6501 Compression burn garment, bodysuit (head to foot), custom fabricated
- A6502 Compression burn garment, chin strap, custom fabricated
- A6503 Compression burn garment, facial hood, custom fabricated
- A6504 Compression burn garment, glove to wrist, custom fabricated
- A6505 Compression burn garment, glove to elbow, custom fabricated
- A6506 Compression burn garment, glove to axilla, custom fabricated
- A6507 Compression burn garment, foot to knee length, custom fabricated
- A6508 Compression burn garment, foot to thigh length, custom fabricated
- A6509 Compression burn garment, upper trunk to waist including arm openings (vest), custom fabricated
- A6510 Compression burn garment, trunk, including arms down to leg openings (leotard), custom fabricated
- A6511 Compression burn garment, lower trunk including leg openings (panty), custom fabricated
- A6512 Compression burn garment, not otherwise classified
- A6513 Compression burn mask, face and/or neck, plastic or equal, custom fabricated
- A6515 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, full leg, each, custom
- A6516 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, foot, each, custom
- A6517 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, below knee, each, custom
- A6518 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, arm, each, custom
- A6519 Gradient compression garment, not otherwise specified, for nighttime use, each
- A6520 Gradient compression garment, glove, padded, for nighttime use, each
- A6521 Gradient compression garment, glove, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
- A6522 Gradient compression garment, arm, padded, for nighttime use, each
- A6523 Gradient compression garment, arm, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
- A6524 Gradient compression garment, lower leg and foot, padded, for nighttime use, each
- A6525 Gradient compression garment, lower leg and foot, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
- A6526 Gradient compression garment, full leg and foot, padded, for nighttime use, each
- A6527 Gradient compression garment, full leg and foot, padded, for nighttime use, custom, each
- A6528 Gradient compression garment, bra, for nighttime use, each
- A6529 Gradient compression garment, bra, for nighttime use, custom, each
- A6530 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 mm Hg, each
- A6531 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mm Hg, each; used as a surgical dressing, each
- A6532 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40-50 mm Hg, each; used as a surgical dressing, each
- A6533 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 18-30 mm Hg, each
- A6534 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 30-40 mm Hg, each
- A6535 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 40 mm or greater Hg, each
- A6536 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 18-30 mm Hg, each
- A6537 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 30-40 mm Hg, each
- A6538 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 40 mm or greater - Hg, each
- A6539 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 18-30 mm Hg, each
- A6540 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 30-40 mm Hg, each
- A6541 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 40-or greater mm Hg, each
- A6544 Gradient compression stocking, garter belt
- A6545 Compression wrap, nonelastic, below knee, 30-50 mm Hg, used as a surgical dressing, each
- A6548 Accessory to custom gradient compression garment, silicone band, any size
- A6549 Gradient compression stocking daytime use (code requires submission of invoice for payment)
- A6552 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mm Hg, each
- A6553 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 30-40 mm Hg, custom, each
- A6554 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mm Hg or greater, each
- A6555 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 40 mm Hg or greater, custom, each
- A6556 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 18-30 mm Hg, custom, each

A6557 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 30-40 mm Hg, custom, each
 A6558 Gradient compression stocking, thigh length, 40 mm Hg or greater, custom, each
 A6559 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 18-30 mm Hg, custom, each
 A6560 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 30-40 mm Hg, custom, each
 A6561 Gradient compression stocking, full length/chap style, 40 mm Hg or greater, custom, each
 A6562 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 18-30 mm Hg, custom, each
 A6563 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 30-40 mm Hg, custom, each
 A6564 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 40 mm Hg or greater, custom, each
 A6565 Gradient compression stocking, waist length, 40 mm Hg or greater, custom, each
 A6566 Gradient compression garment, neck/head, each
 A6567 Gradient compression garment, neck/head, custom, each
 A6568 Gradient compression garment, torso and shoulder, each
 A6569 Gradient compression garment, torso/shoulder, custom, each
 A6570 Gradient compression garment, genital region, each
 A6571 Gradient compression garment, genital region, custom, each
 A6572 Gradient compression garment, toe caps, each
 A6573 Gradient compression garment, toe caps, custom, each
 A6574 Gradient compression arm sleeve and glove combination, custom, each
 A6575 Gradient compression arm sleeve and glove combination, each
 A6576 Gradient compression arm sleeve, custom, medium weight, each
 A6577 Gradient compression arm sleeve, custom, heavy weight, each
 A6578 Gradient compression arm sleeve, each
 A6579 Gradient compression glove, custom, medium weight, each
 A6580 Gradient compression glove, custom, heavy weight, each
 A6581 Gradient compression glove, each
 A6582 Gradient compression gauntlet, each
 A6583 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, below knee, 30-50 mm Hg, each
 A6584 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, not otherwise specified
 A6585 Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, above knee, each
 A6586 Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, full leg, each
 A6587 Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, foot, each
 A6588 Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, arm, each
 A6589 Gradient pressure wrap with adjustable straps, bra, each
 A6593 Accessory for gradient compression garment or wrap with adjustable straps, not otherwise specified
 A6594 Gradient compression bandaging supply, bandage liner, lower extremity, any size or length, each
 A6595 Gradient compression bandaging supply, bandage liner, upper extremity, any size or length, each
 A6596 Gradient compression bandaging supply, conforming gauze, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6597 Gradient compression bandage roll, elastic long stretch, linear yard, any width, each
 A6598 Gradient compression bandage roll, elastic medium stretch, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6599 Gradient compression bandage roll, inelastic short stretch, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6600 Gradient compression bandaging supply, high density foam sheet, per 250 square centimeters, each
 A6601 Gradient compression bandaging supply, high density foam pad, any size or shape, each
 A6602 Gradient compression bandaging supply, high density foam roll for bandage, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6603 Gradient compression bandaging supply, low density channel foam sheet, per 250 square centimeters, each
 A6604 Gradient compression bandaging supply, low density flat foam sheet, per 250 square centimeters, each
 A6605 Gradient compression bandaging supply, padded foam, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6606 Gradient compression bandaging supply, padded textile, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6607 Gradient compression bandaging supply, tubular protective absorption layer, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6608 Gradient compression bandaging supply, tubular protective absorption padded layer, per linear yard, any width, each
 A6609 Gradient compression bandaging supply, not otherwise specified
 A6610 Gradient compression stocking, below knee, 18-30 mm hg, custom, each
 A6611 Gradient compression wrap with adjustable straps, above knee, each, custom
 S8420 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve and glove combination), custom made
 S8421 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve and glove combination), ready made

S8422 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), custom made, medium weight
S8423 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), custom made, heavy weight
S8424 Gradient pressure aid (sleeve), ready made
S8425 Gradient pressure aid (glove), custom made, medium weight
S8426 Gradient pressure aid (glove), custom made, heavy weight
S8427 Gradient pressure aid (glove), ready made
S8428 Gradient pressure aid (gauntlet), ready made
S8429 Gradient pressure exterior wrap

Limits

A quantity of three (3) daytime garments or wraps per body area are allowed once every six (6) months.
A quantity of two (2) nighttime garments per body area are allowed once every two (2) years (24 months).

Replacement of the garments can only be made in accordance with the frequency limitations of once every six (6) months for daytime garments or wraps and once every two (2) years for nighttime garments.

The RA modifier (replacement of a DME, Orthotic or Prosthetic Item) may only be used if the gradient compression garment or wrap is lost, stolen, or irreparably damaged.

RELATED POLICIES

Coding and Payment Guidelines
Maximum Units

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, April 2026
Provider Update, October 2025
Provider Update, May 2025
Provider Update, July 2023
Provider Update October 2021
Provider Update January 2020
Provider Update, January 2018
Provider Update, April 2013
Provider Update, Jun 2008

REFERENCES:

1. Local Coverage Determination (LCD):Surgical Dressings (L33831)
<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jadme/policies/lcd/active>
2. Program Memorandum, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): Transmittal AB-03-090: Coverage of Compression Garments in the Treatment of Venous Stasis Ulcers.
3. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r12359cp.pdf>

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